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SURFACE WIND MAPS FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN FROM AUGUST 1975--ETC(U)  
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THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN  
FROM AUGUST 1975  
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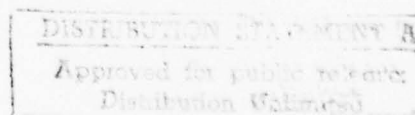
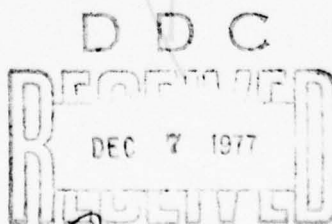
**BY**

**JOSE-FERNANDEZ PARTAGAS**

**AND**

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**ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL OF MARINE AND  
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33149**





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SURFACE WIND MAPS FOR THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN FROM AUGUST 1975 TO  
OCTOBER 1976 ,

by

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Jose Fernandez/Partagas  
and  
Walter/Duing

Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science  
University of Miami  
Miami, Florida 33149

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## PREFACE

During the past few years, oceanographers and meteorologists alike have refocused their interest on the monsoon regions of the western Indian Ocean. Oceanographic pilot programs (e.g. INDEX, CINCWIO) and meteorological programs (e.g. MONEX, FGGE) are evidences of this interest.

The interaction between ocean and atmosphere is particularly pronounced in the Arabian Sea and along its boundaries. The low-level atmospheric jet over East Africa and the Somali Current with its adjacent upwelling areas are prime examples of coupled air-sea phenomena. The large signals and the annual periodicity of these processes make them particularly attractive to the geophysical researchers, especially to oceanographers and meteorologists.

As part of studying the influence of atmospheric motions on oceanic motions in the western Indian Ocean, maps describing the surface wind field for that area have been prepared at the University of Miami for a period of fourteen and a half months (mid-August 1975 to October 1976). The surface wind description given by these maps is more suitable for concurrent oceanographic studies than monthly mean winds obtained from climatological atlases: year-to-year variations and high horizontal resolution, which are averaged out in the atlas information, are retained on our maps.

For meteorologists and oceanographers preparing experimental work in 1979, these maps may be of particular interest.

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SURFACE WIND MAPS  
FOR THE  
WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN  
(August 1975 to October 1976)

1. Introduction

This report presents surface wind maps which have been specially prepared for areas of the western Indian Ocean during mid-August 1975 to October 1976. The maps are based upon an unusually large collection of wind data and, therefore, describe the surface wind field in a much more realistic and more detailed manner than operational weather charts for the Indian Ocean. These considerations justify the effort of putting together the maps in the form of a report.

Surface wind maps from mid-August to December 1975 in Part A of this report are for a marine area bounded by the equator, the  $12^{\circ}\text{N}$  parallel, the northeast African coast and the  $60^{\circ}\text{E}$  meridian. The area covered by the maps for January to October 1976 in Part B of this report is much larger than the area of the 1975 maps. For the 1976 maps, the area covers from  $10^{\circ}\text{S}$  to  $16^{\circ}\text{N}$  latitude and from about the  $65^{\circ}\text{E}$  meridian to the east African coast.

Surface wind data composited over three day periods are used on each map. This data compositing is necessary because daily data are too sparse for a reliable wind analysis; compositing is permissible because no major wind variation of less than three days is expected to occur over the map areas at the large-scale (Krishnamurti and Bhalme, 1976). Composited data on the maps are analyzed by using a streamline-isotach wind analysis technique.

## 2. Wind data and analysis procedure

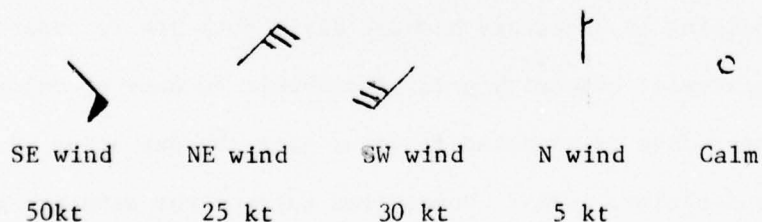
### a) Sources

Sources for the wind data used on the maps for mid-August to December 1975 are: 1) the U. S. National Climatic Center, Asheville, North Carolina and 2) the East African Meteorological Department, Nairobi, Kenya. Source (1) provides a large collection of wind reports from ships (at ship's anemometer level); source (2) provides wind reports from coastal and island stations and a few additional ship reports. In addition to data from sources (1) and (2), the 1976 maps contain some ship reports provided by the India Meteorological Department, New Delhi, India.

### b) Plotting

Wind data are plotted on three-day composite maps by following the standard convention used in Meteorology. The surface wind direction is indicated by a segment pointing in the direction towards which the wind is blowing. Flags, full barbs and half-barbs along the segment denote wind speed. A flag is assigned to represent a 50-kt wind speed; a 10-kt wind speed is represented by a full barb. A 5-kt wind speed is represented by a half-barb; a 1 or 2-kt wind speed is represented by a segment without any barb. Calm reports are plotted as small circles and variable winds are represented by a small v.

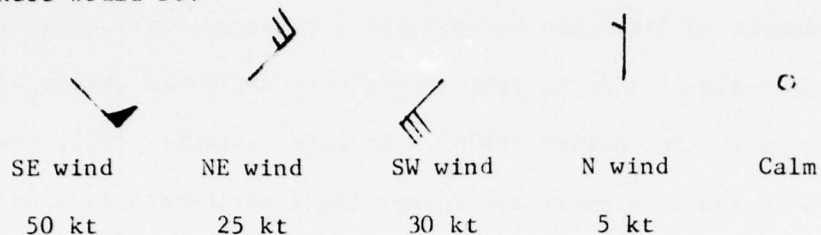
Examples of wind plotting are:



These examples are valid for the Northern Hemisphere. For the Southern Hemisphere, flags, full barbs and half-barbs are oriented opposite to those for the Northern Hemisphere. The examples above, if plotted in the Southern



Hemisphere would be:



c) Analysis

Wind data plotted on the maps are subjectively analyzed by using a streamline-isotach analysis technique. Free-hand streamlines (arrowed, thin lines on the maps) are drawn by following the wind direction shown by the three-day composited data; isotachs (heavy lines on the maps) are drawn to denote wind speed. Therefore, the surface wind field is described (in direction and speed) by the streamline-isotach analysis.

3. Surface wind field

The surface wind field is discussed here only in terms of its major features. This is because the time variation of the surface wind field at the large-scale is, in general, slow. Therefore, a detailed description of the surface wind field as shown by each individual map is unnecessary.

General characteristics of the surface wind field are discussed separately for the period mid-August to December 1975 (based on maps in Part A of this report) and for the period January to October 1976 (based on maps in Part B of this report).

a) Period mid-August to December, 1975

i) Southwest monsoon

As the map series starts by mid-August 1975, a strong southwest monsoon is present. As expected (Ramage et al, 1972), a wind maximum (about 35 kt)



is found in the vicinity of Socotra Island ( $12^{\circ}\text{N}$ ,  $54^{\circ}\text{E}$ ). Winds turn out to be quite persistent in direction but exhibit a tendency for some variation in speed at a time-scale of a fortnight or so; this variation agrees with findings by Krishnamurti and Bhalme (1976). By late September 1975, the southwest monsoon is found to decay and rather light southwesterly winds are found by mid-October 1975.

ii) Southwest to northeast monsoon transition


This transition gradually occurs in late October and early November 1975.

iii) Northeast monsoon

The northeast monsoon gets definitely established by mid-November 1975. The northeast monsoon is found to be weaker than the southwest monsoon. No winds over 25 kt are found to occur in November-December 1975.

b) Period January to October 1976

i) Northeast monsoon

The 1975-1976 northeast monsoon continues to affect the area during the first three months of 1976. The northeasterly flow is frequently found to turn into a northwesterly flow south of the equator. The northeast monsoon flow is found to become more easterly in March 1976. A few of the maps show tropical cyclones near latitude  $10^{\circ}\text{S}$ ; cyclone positions are based on De Angelis (1977) and are denoted by the symbol  on the maps.

ii) Northeast to southwest monsoon transition

Southeasterly flow is found over the first half of April 1976 as a transition from the northeast to the southwest monsoon.

iii) Southwest monsoon

First indications of the summer southwest monsoon occur around April 20, 1976. Subsequently, the southwest monsoon shows gradually intensifying

characteristics which may permit the 1976 summer monsoon onset to be classed in the gradual onset category (Fieux and Stommel, 1977). The surface wind speed is found to reach about 35 kt by the end of May. The monsoon is found to remain strong in June, July and August; 40 kt wind maxima are noted on several maps in late June and in July 1976. No tendency for a wind speed variation with a fortnight period is detected in the 1976 southwest monsoon analysis. Some decay of the southwest monsoon is found in September and the monsoon is found to be weak during the first half of October. This indicates an earlier decay of the southwest monsoon in 1976 than in 1975. Two tropical cyclones occur in October 1976 (De Angelis, 1977): one of them (denoted by symbol 6) over the Arabian Sea near Socotra Island and the other south of the equator near the Seychelles Islands (about 5°S, 55°E).

iv) Southwest to northeast monsoon transition

The transition from the southwest to the northeast monsoon starts late in October 1976 and is still underway at the end of the map series.

Acknowledgements

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Henry F. Diaz (U. S. National Climatic Center) in the process of obtaining these data is particularly appreciated.

Lyn Ferlo and Lynn Zakevich-Gheer are responsible for drafting the maps and Nancy Dale is responsible for typing the manuscript.

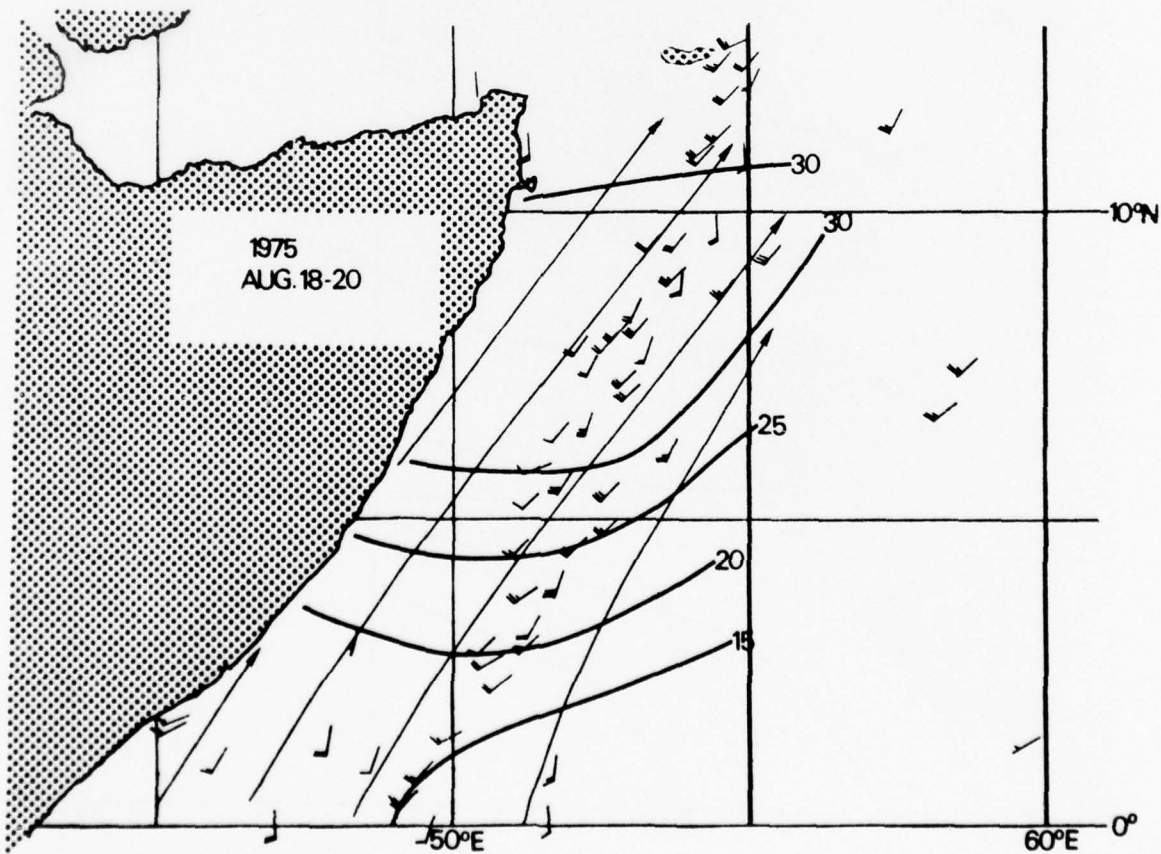
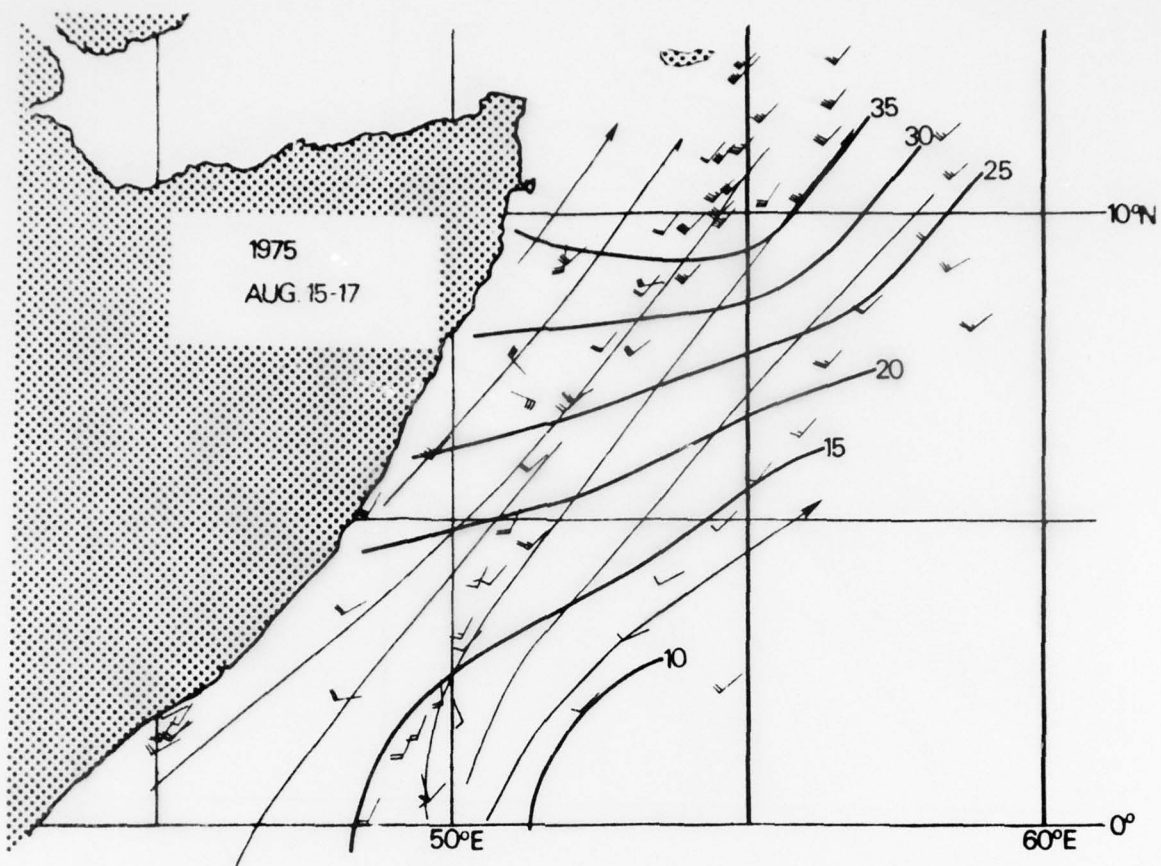
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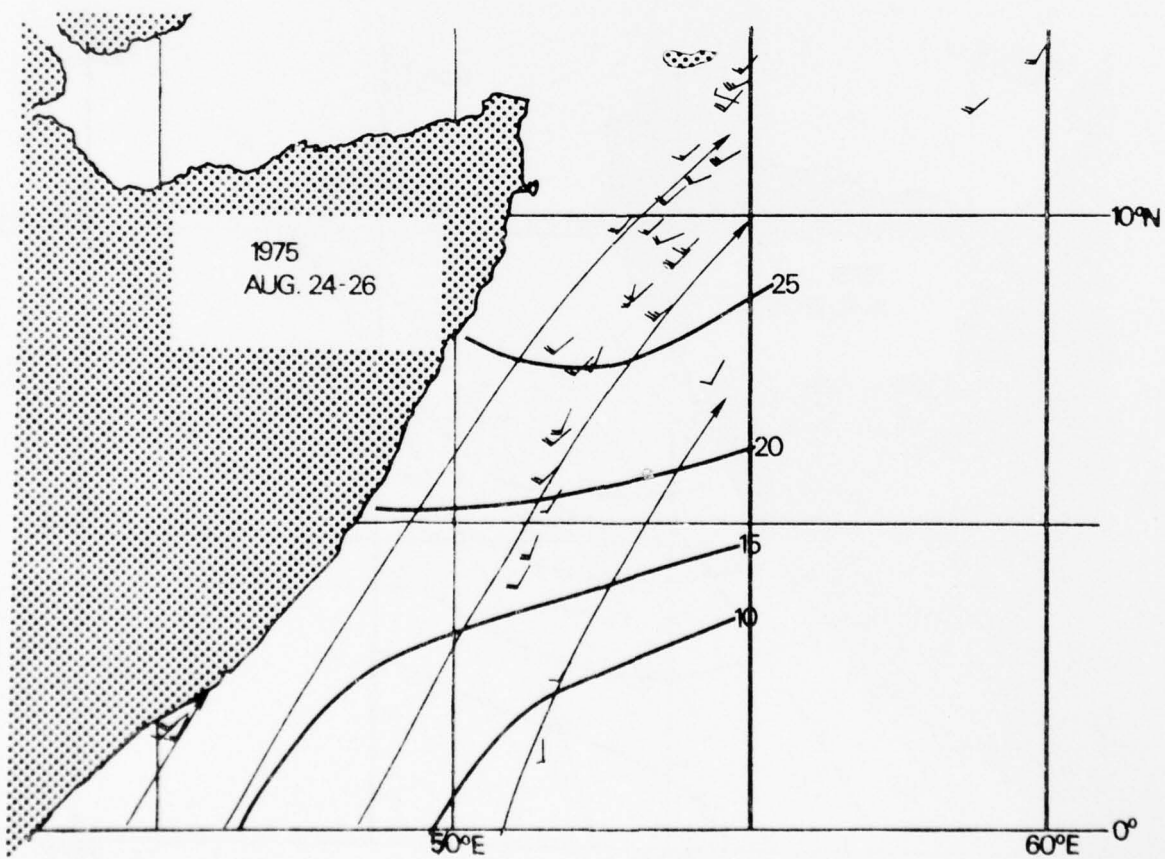
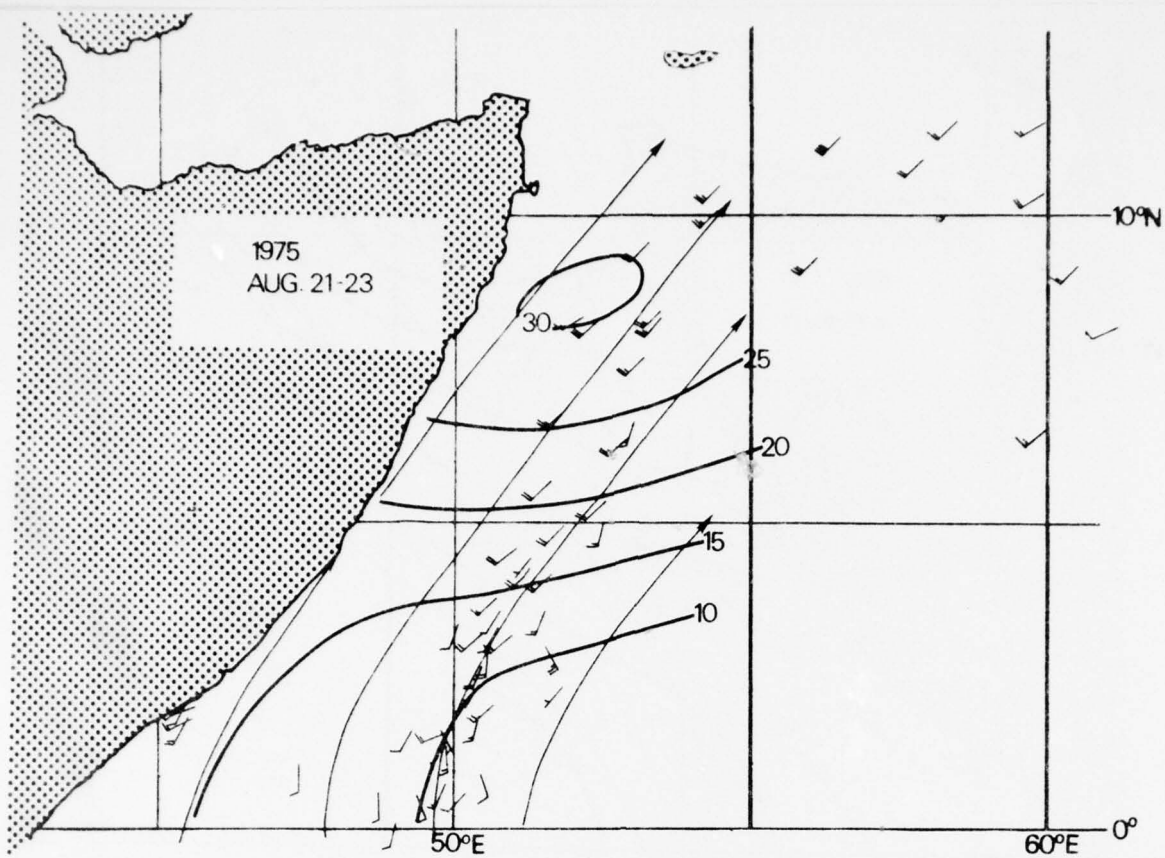
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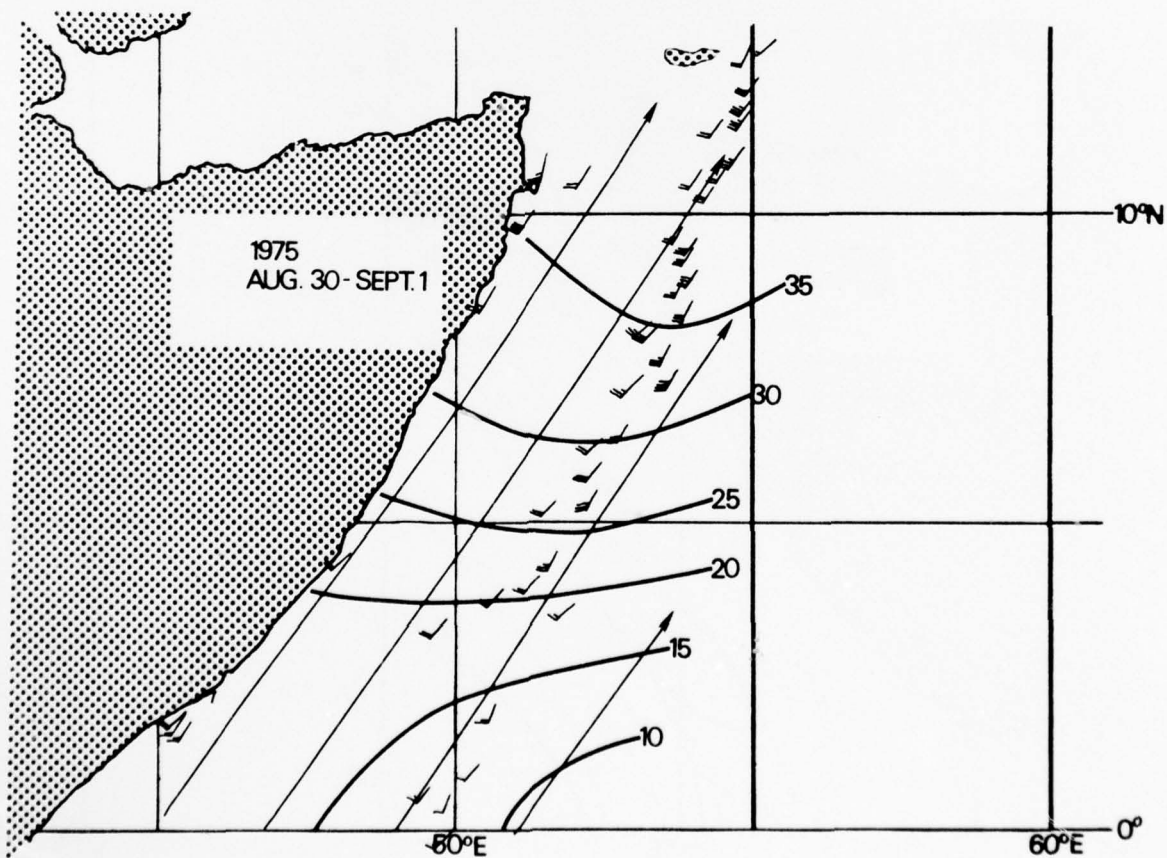
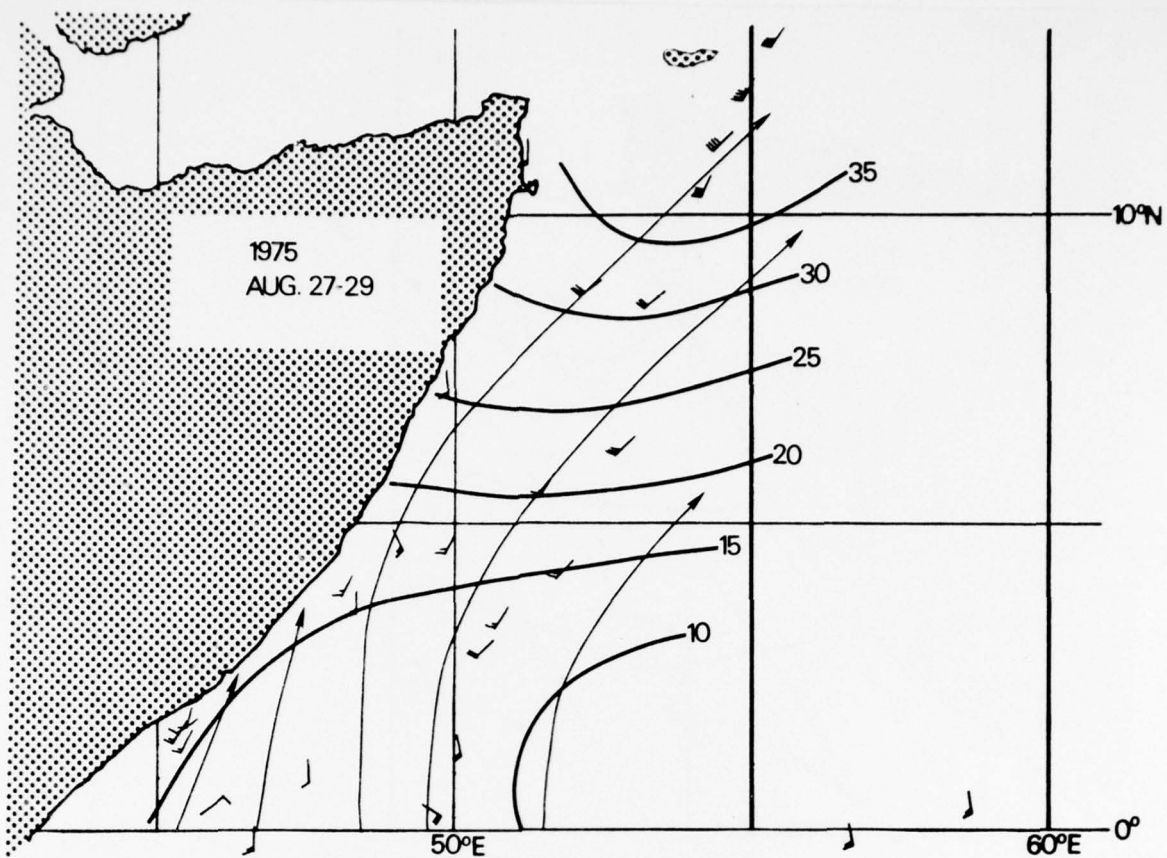
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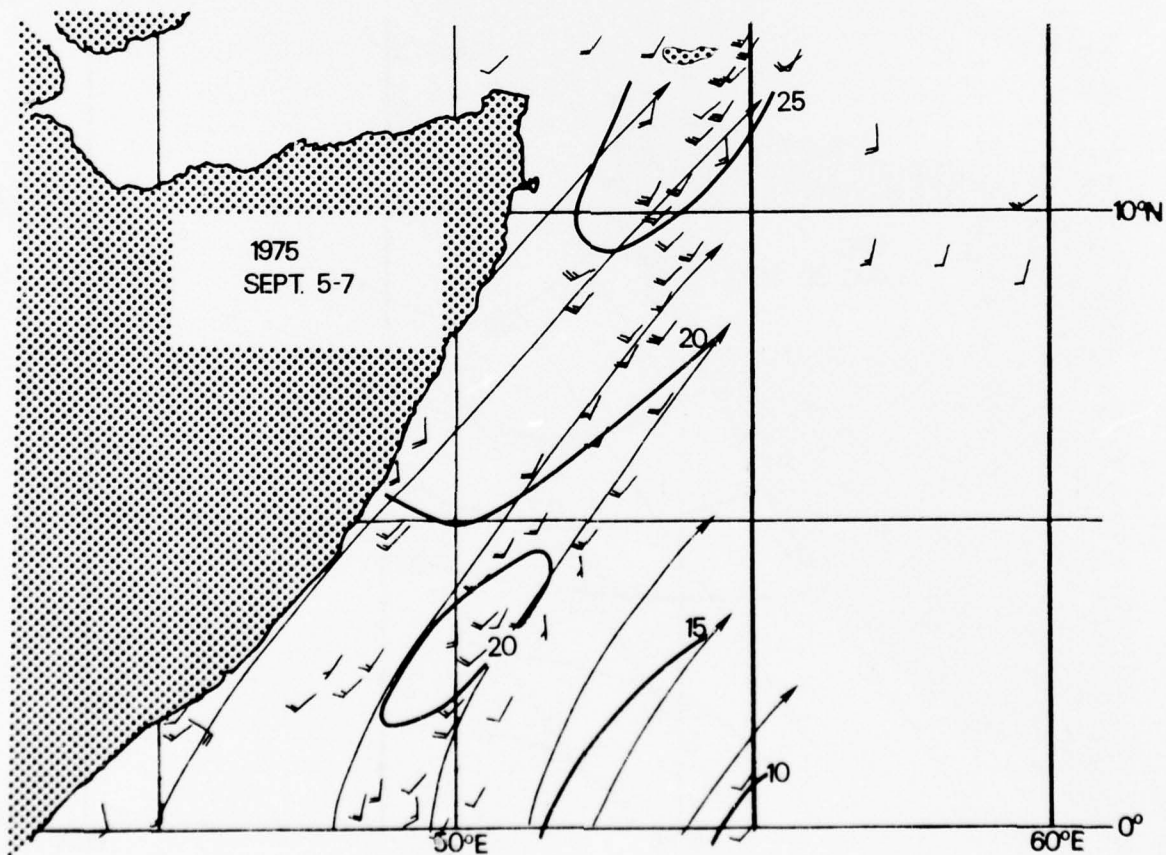
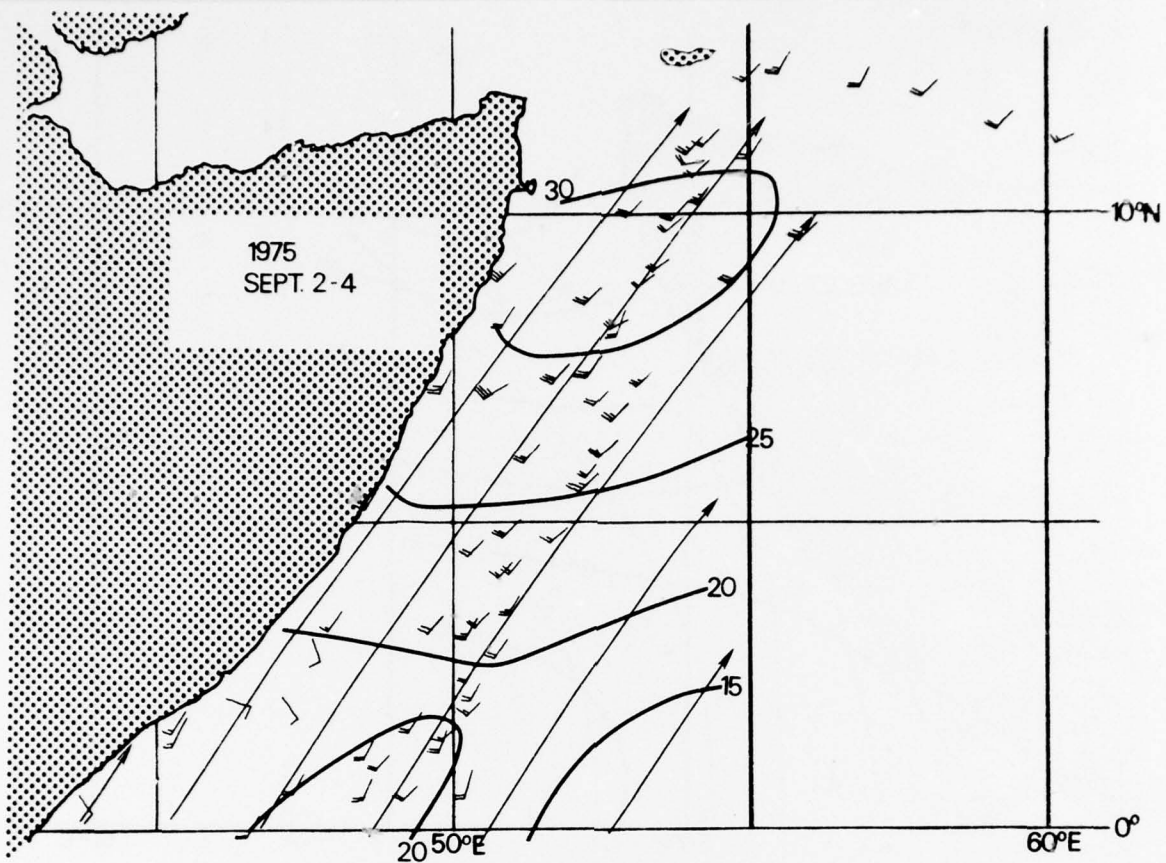
Mid-August to December 1975



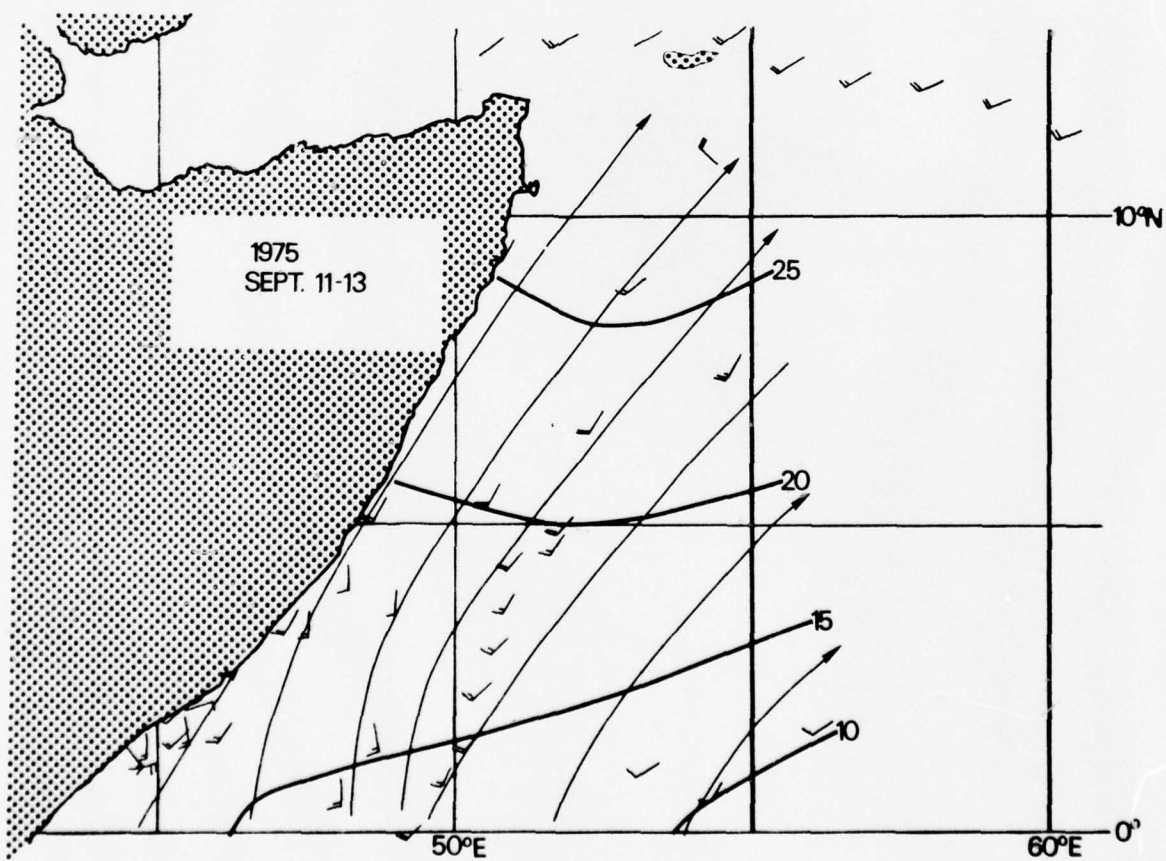
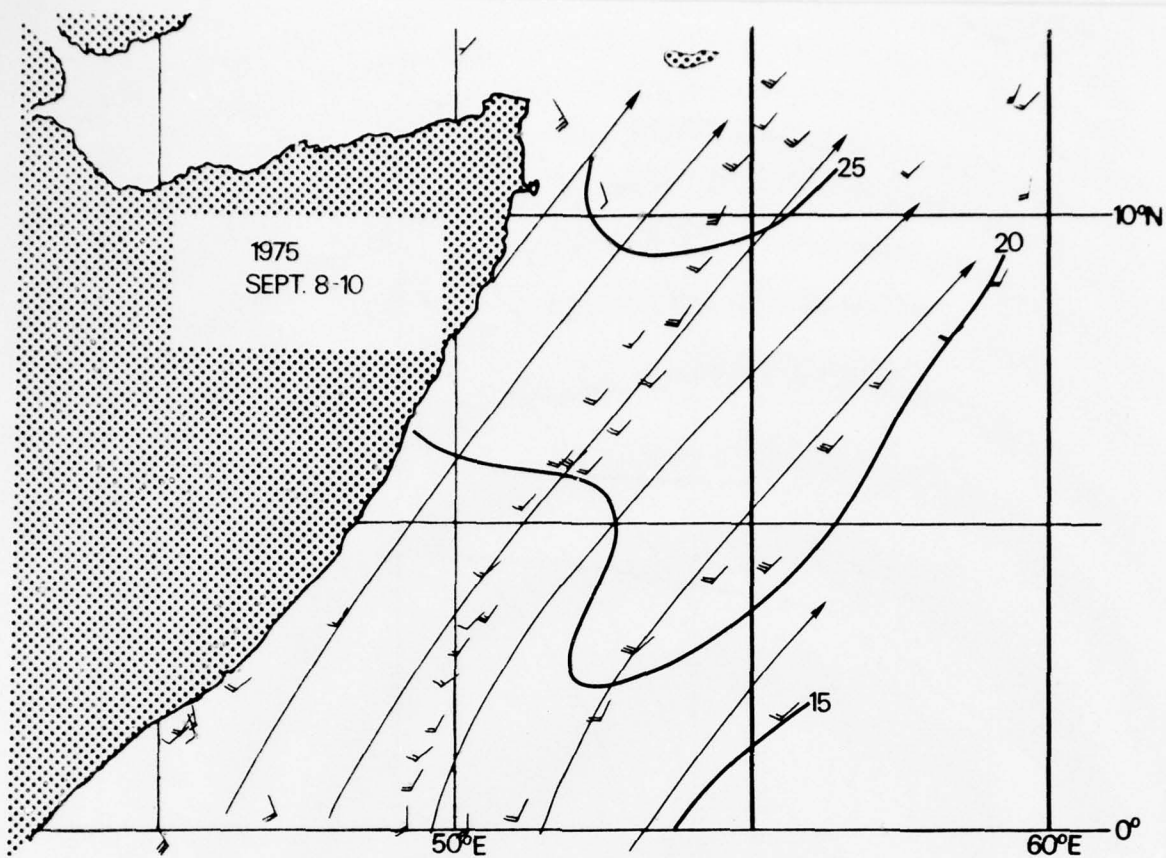


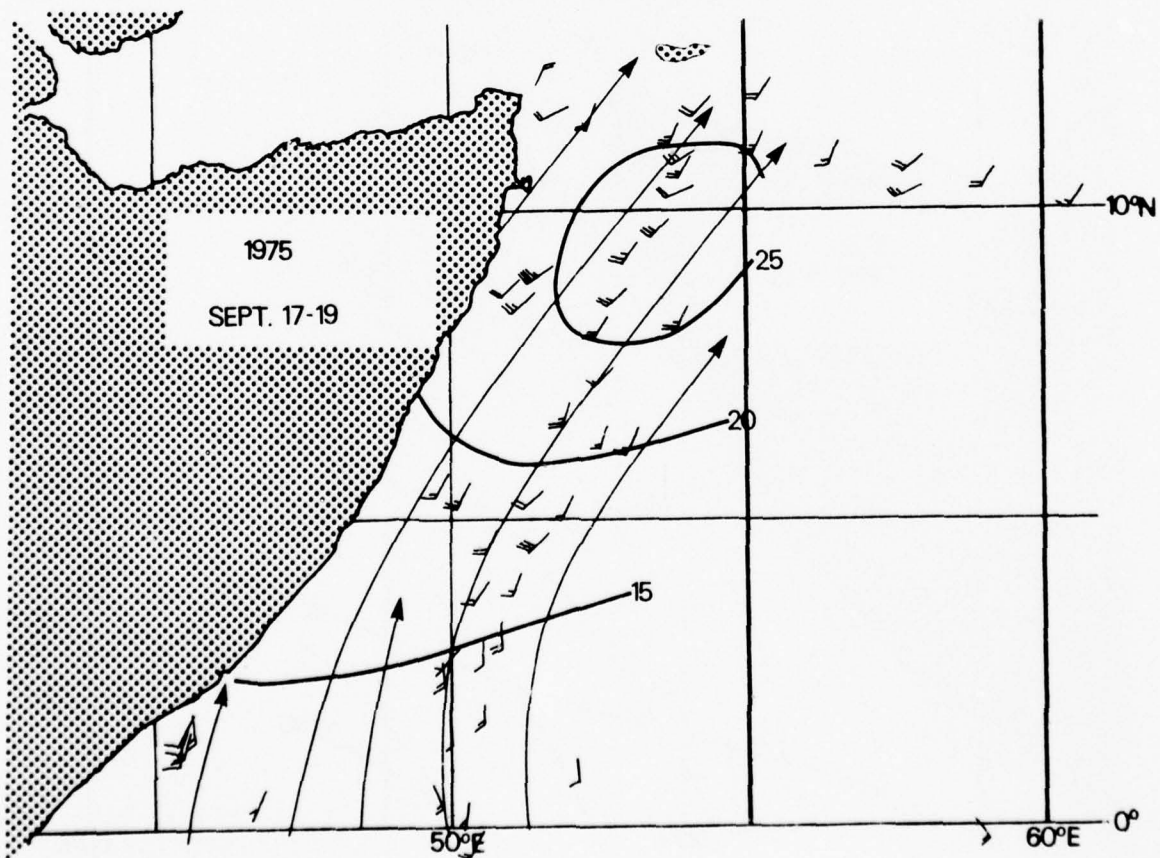
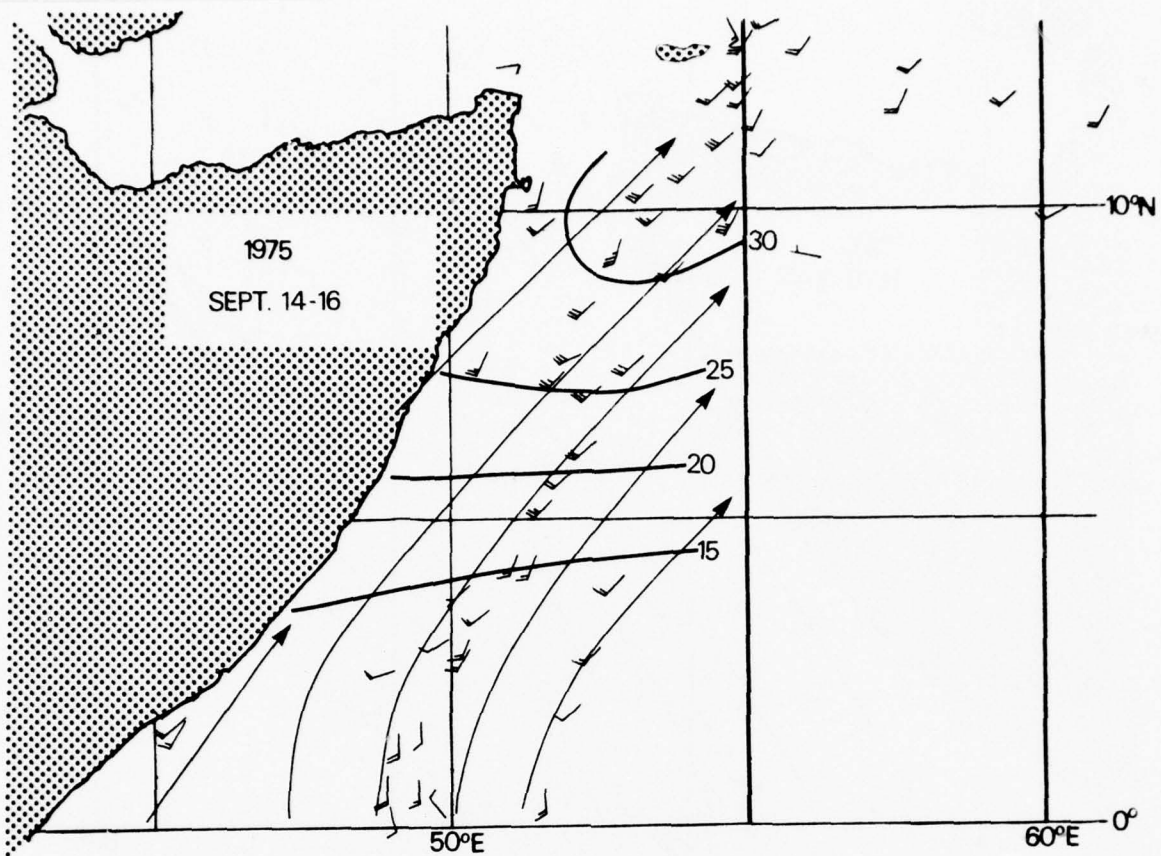




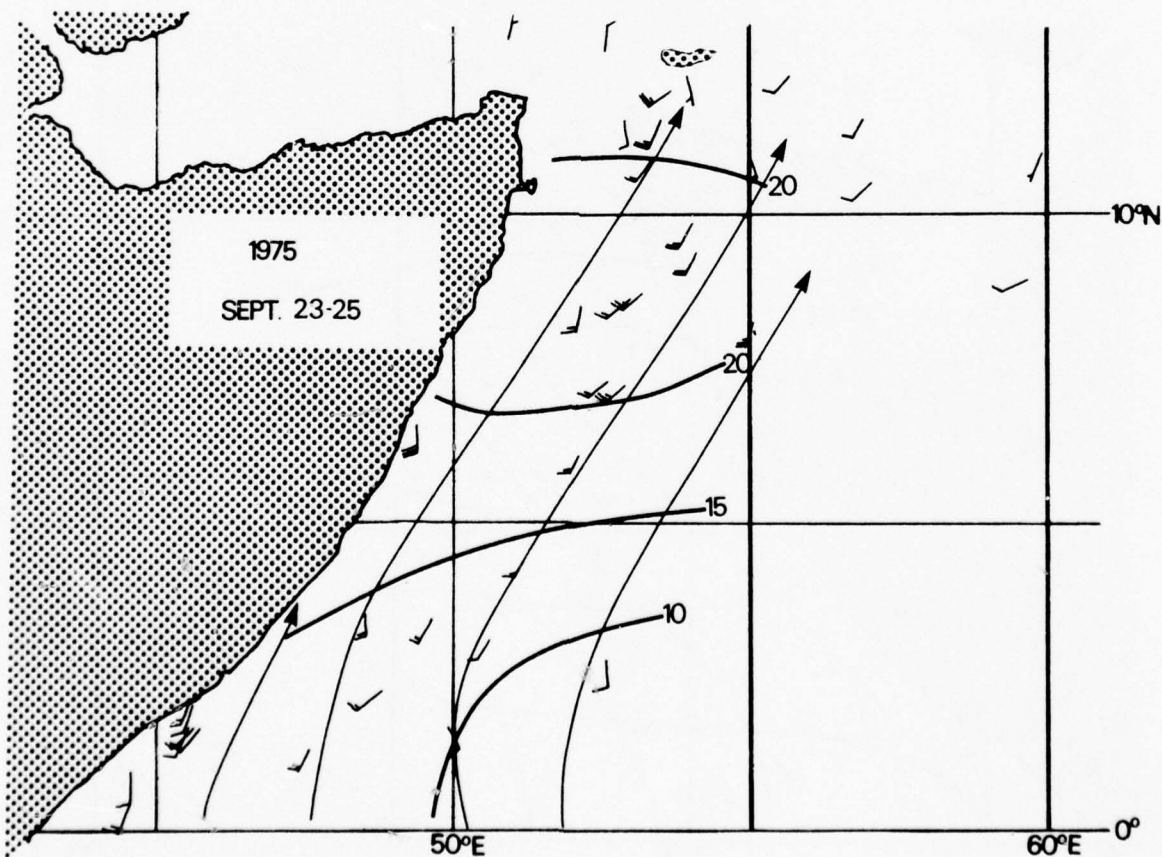
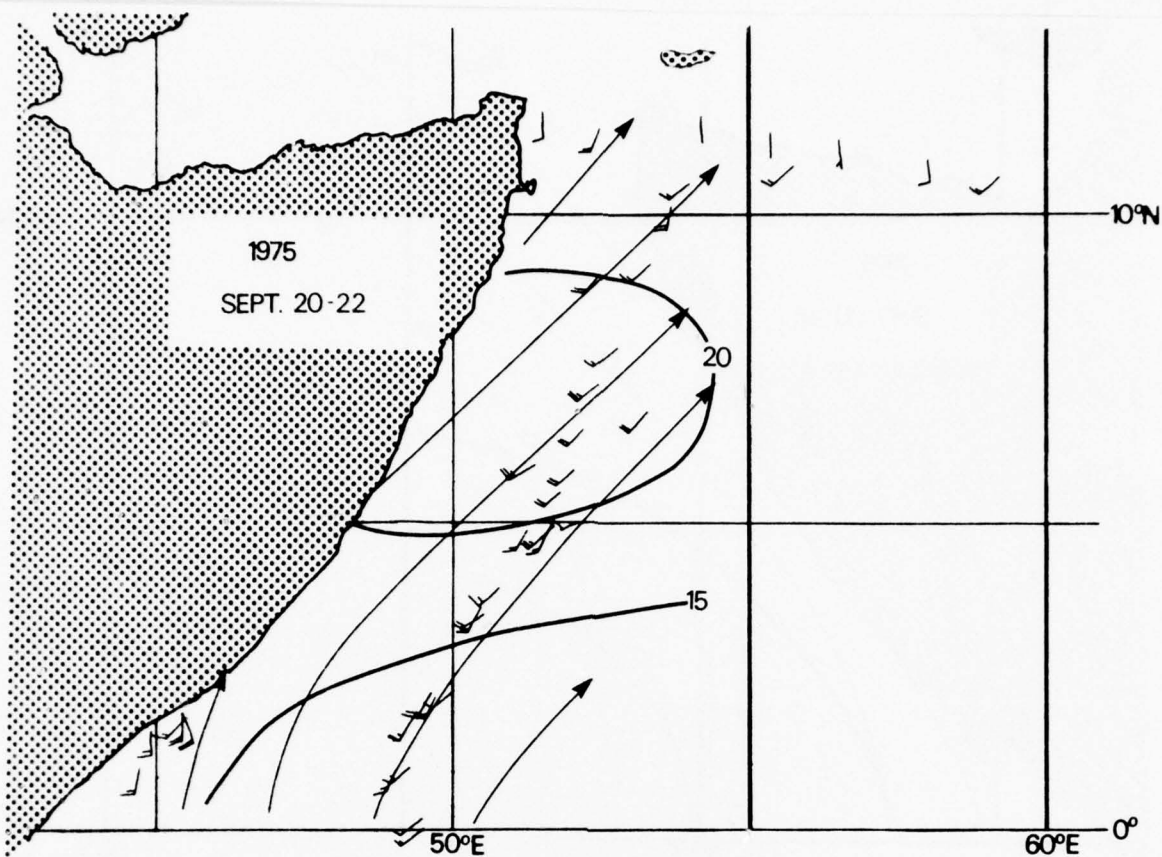


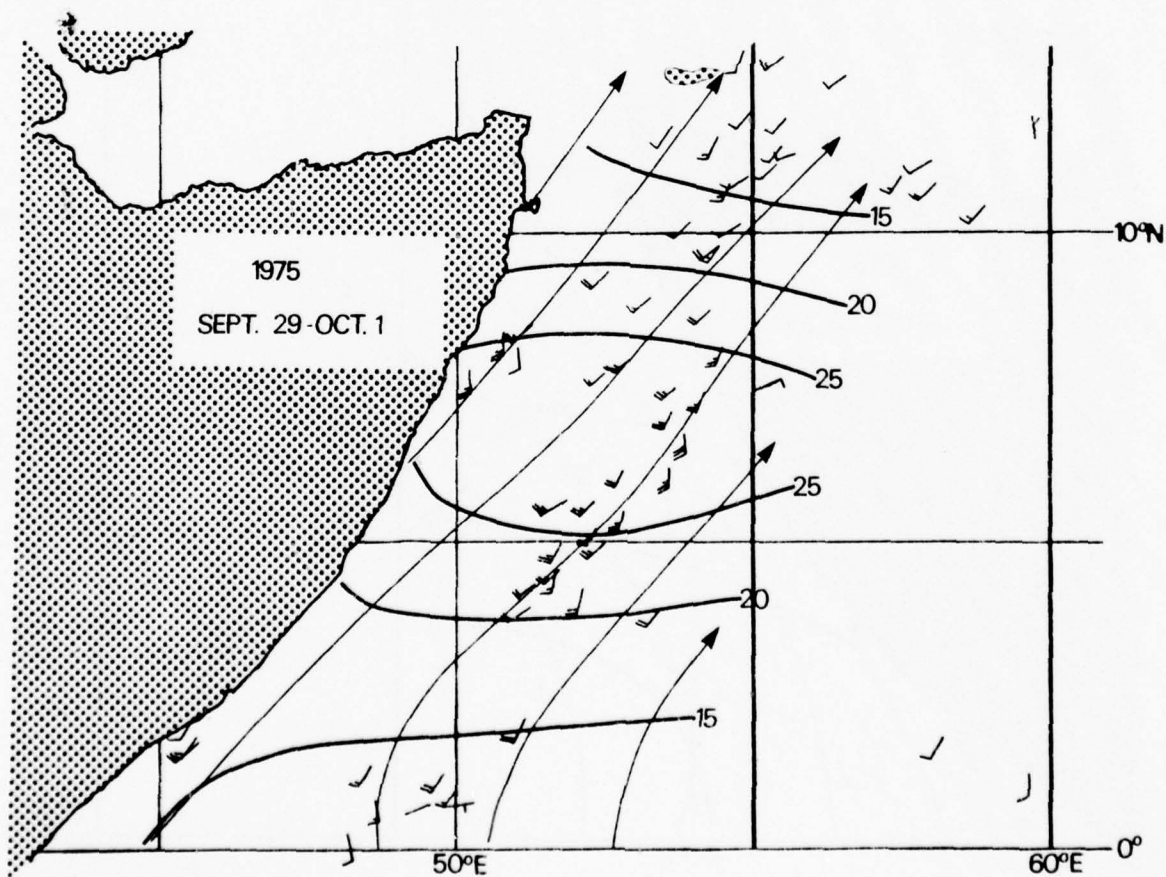
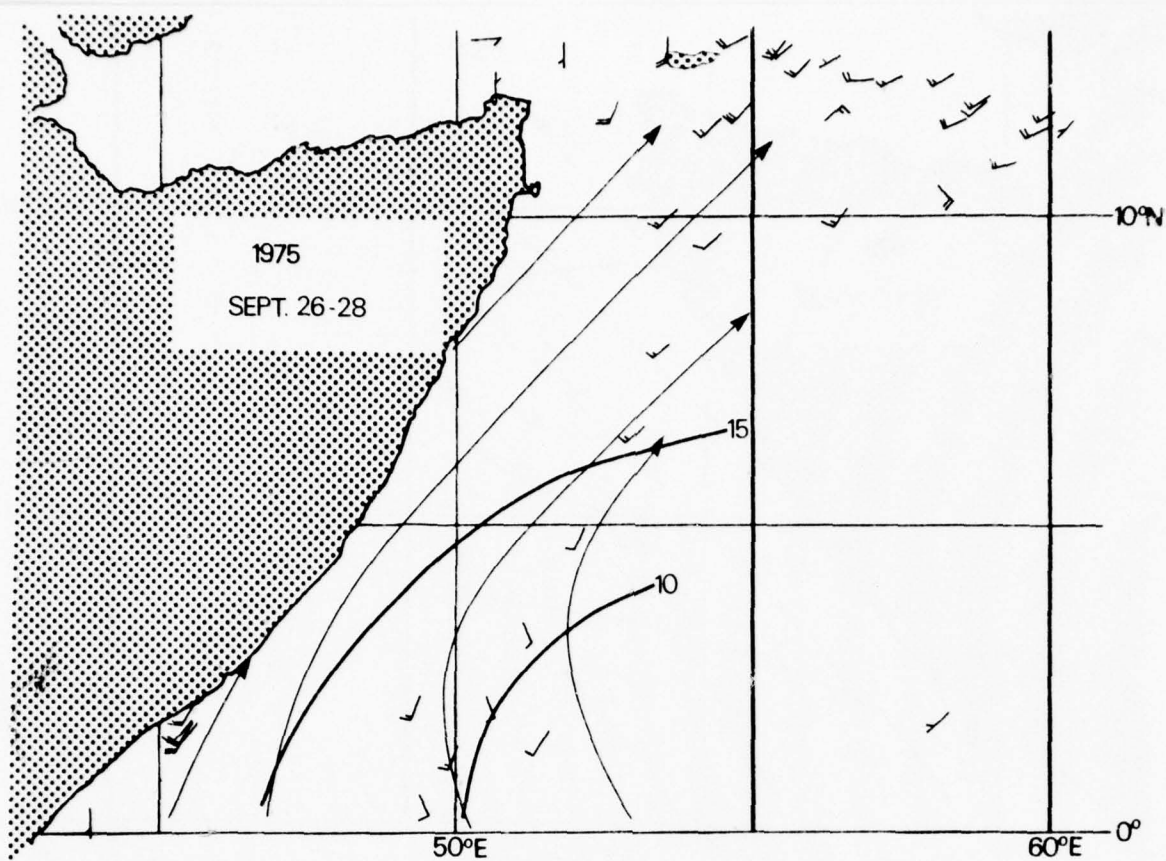


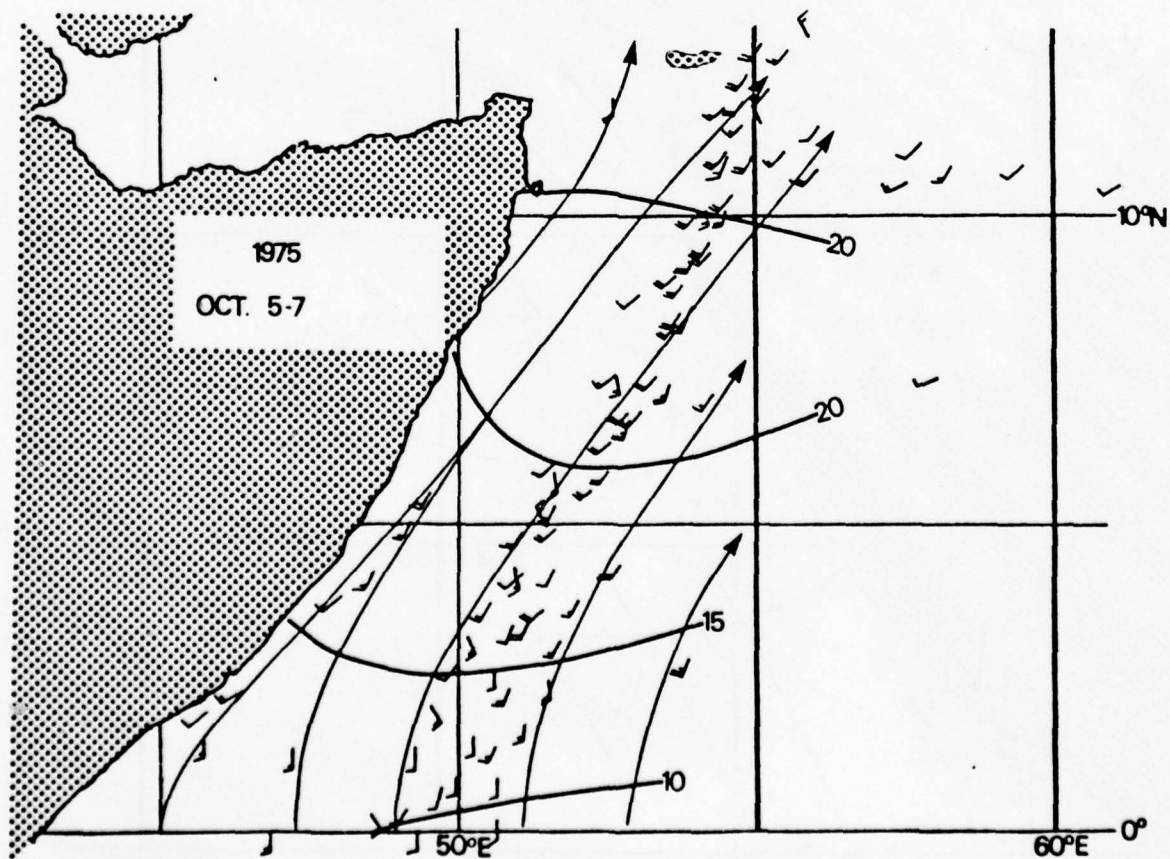
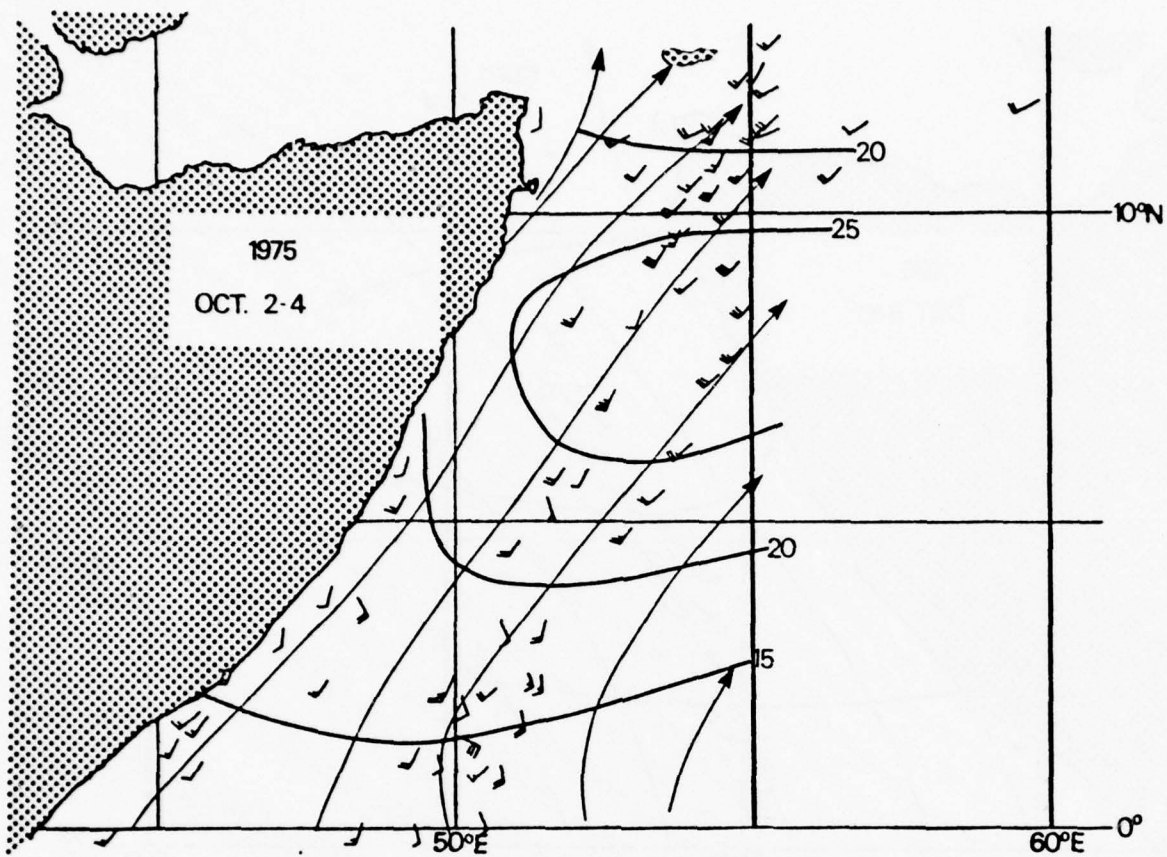




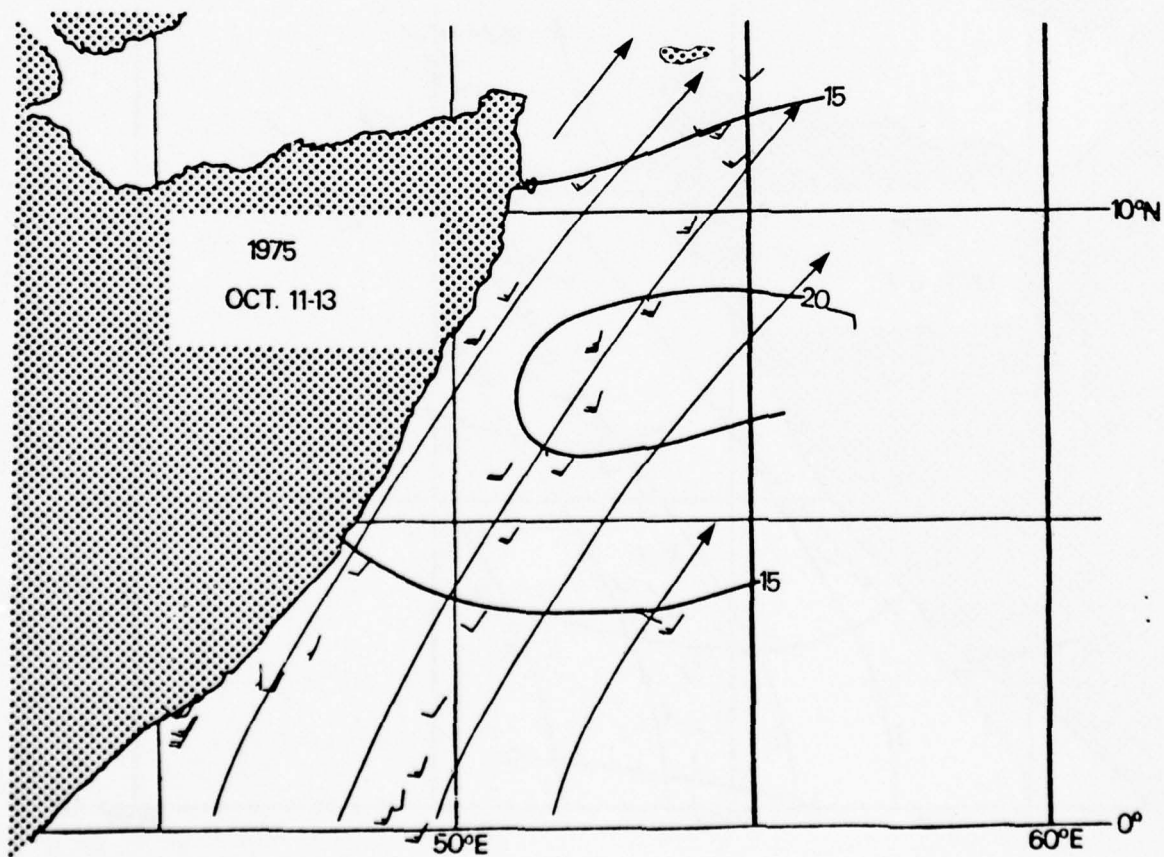
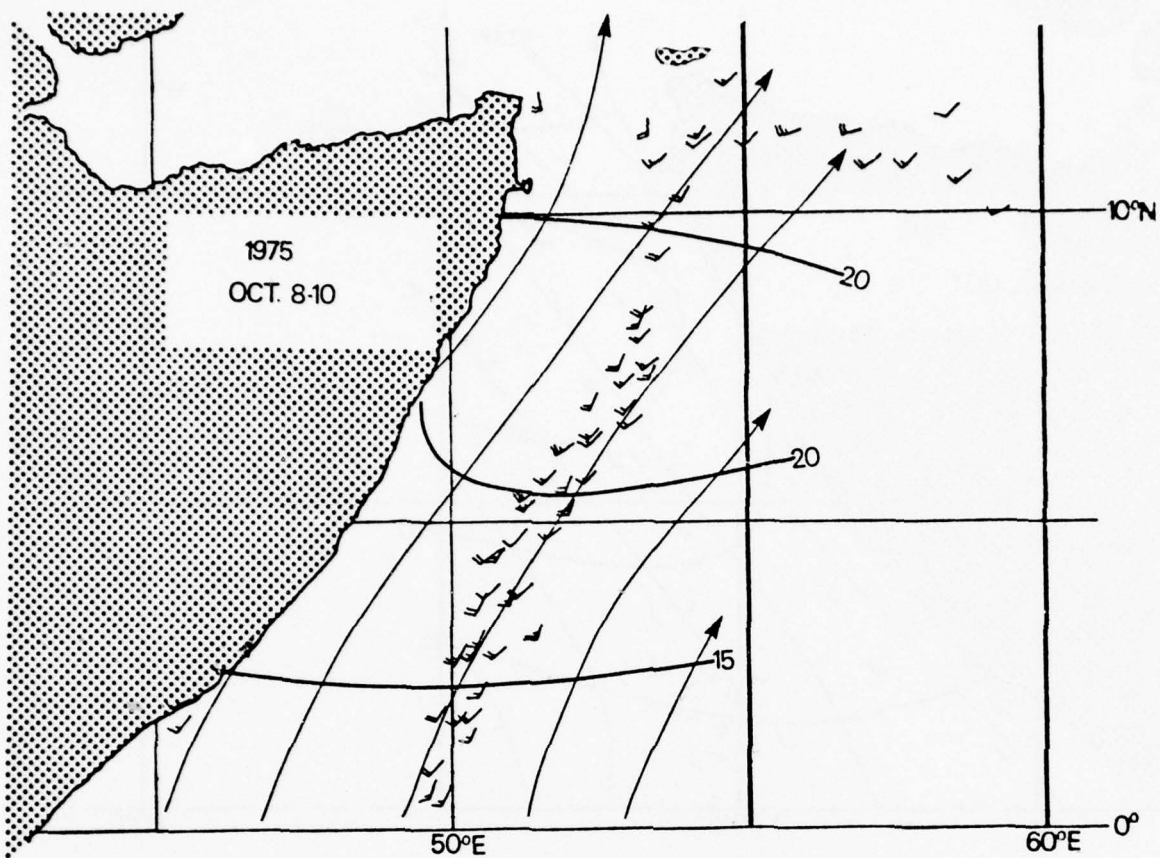


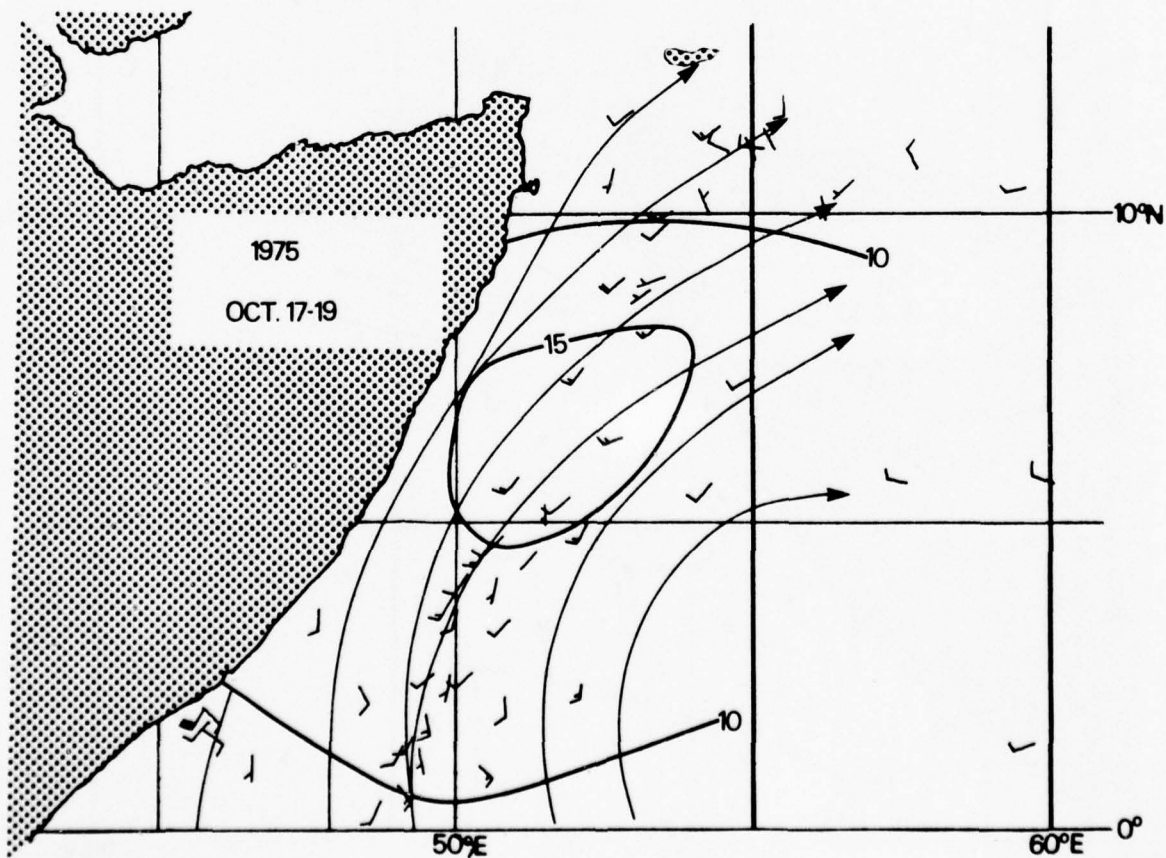
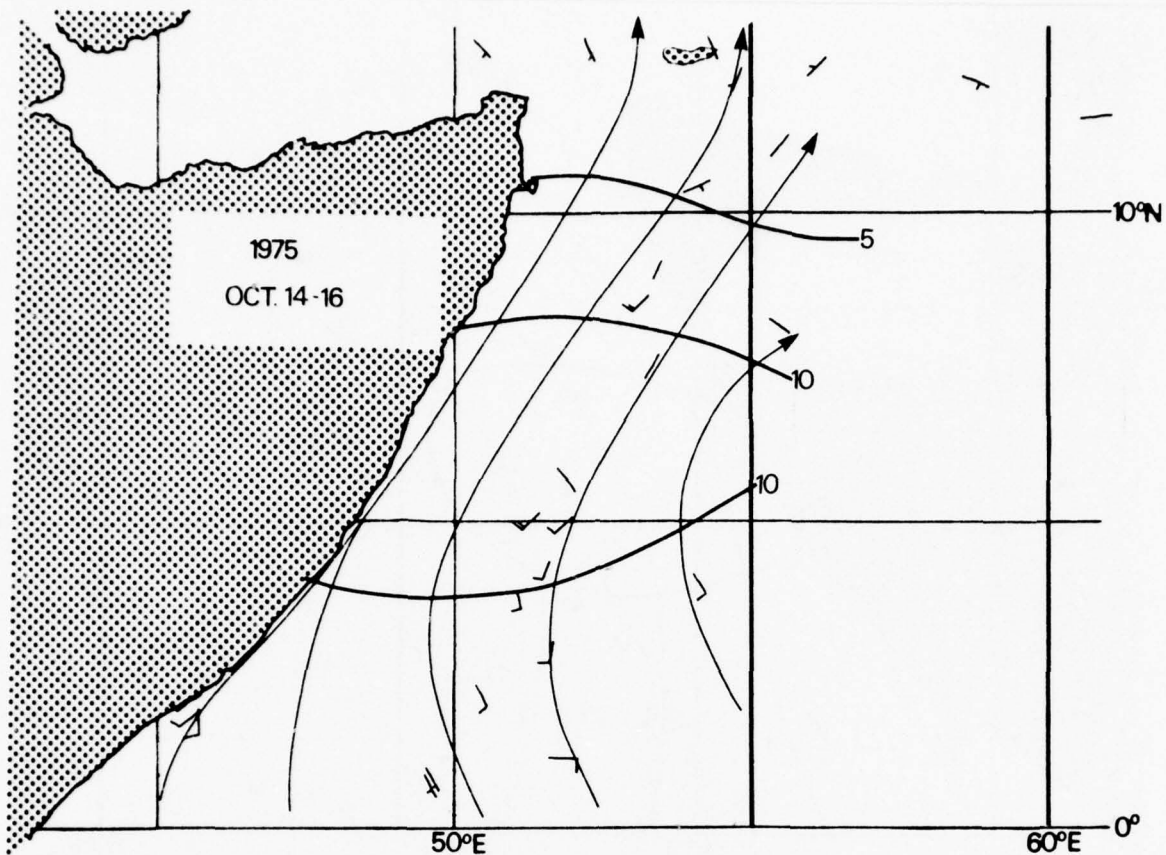




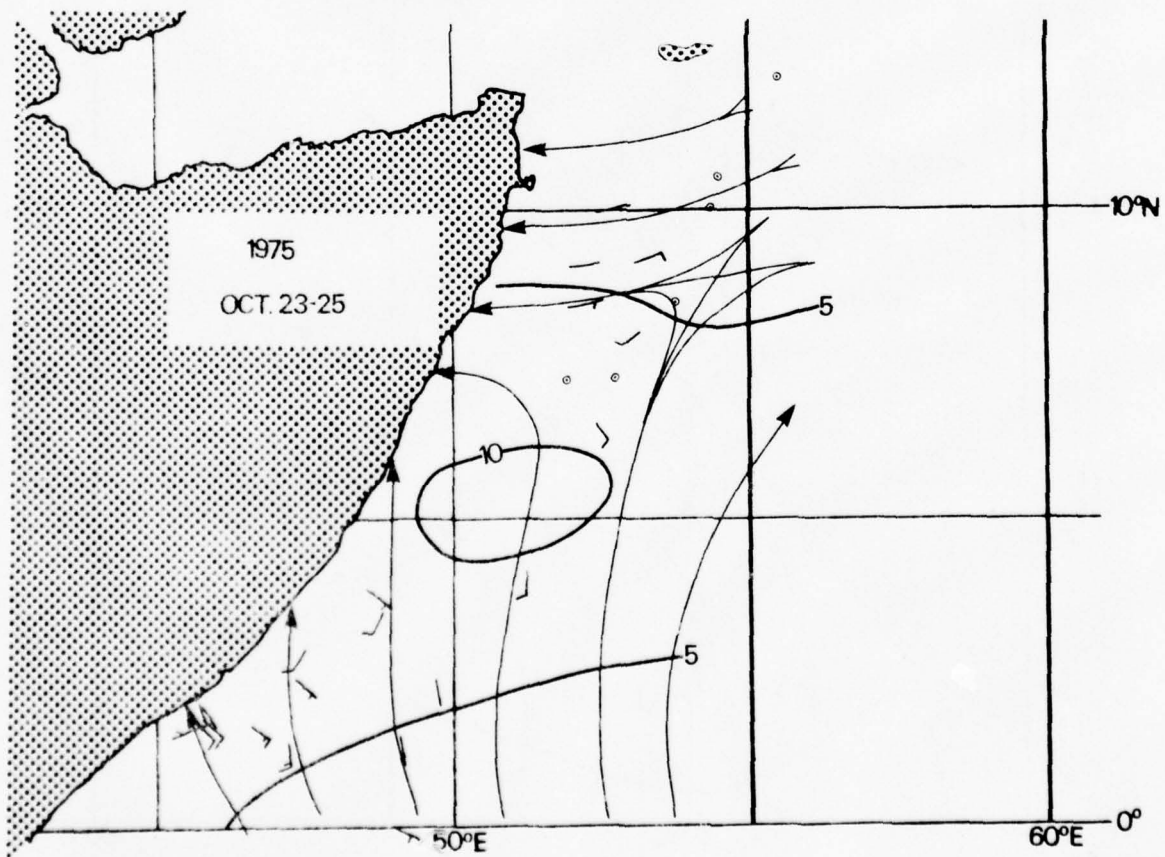
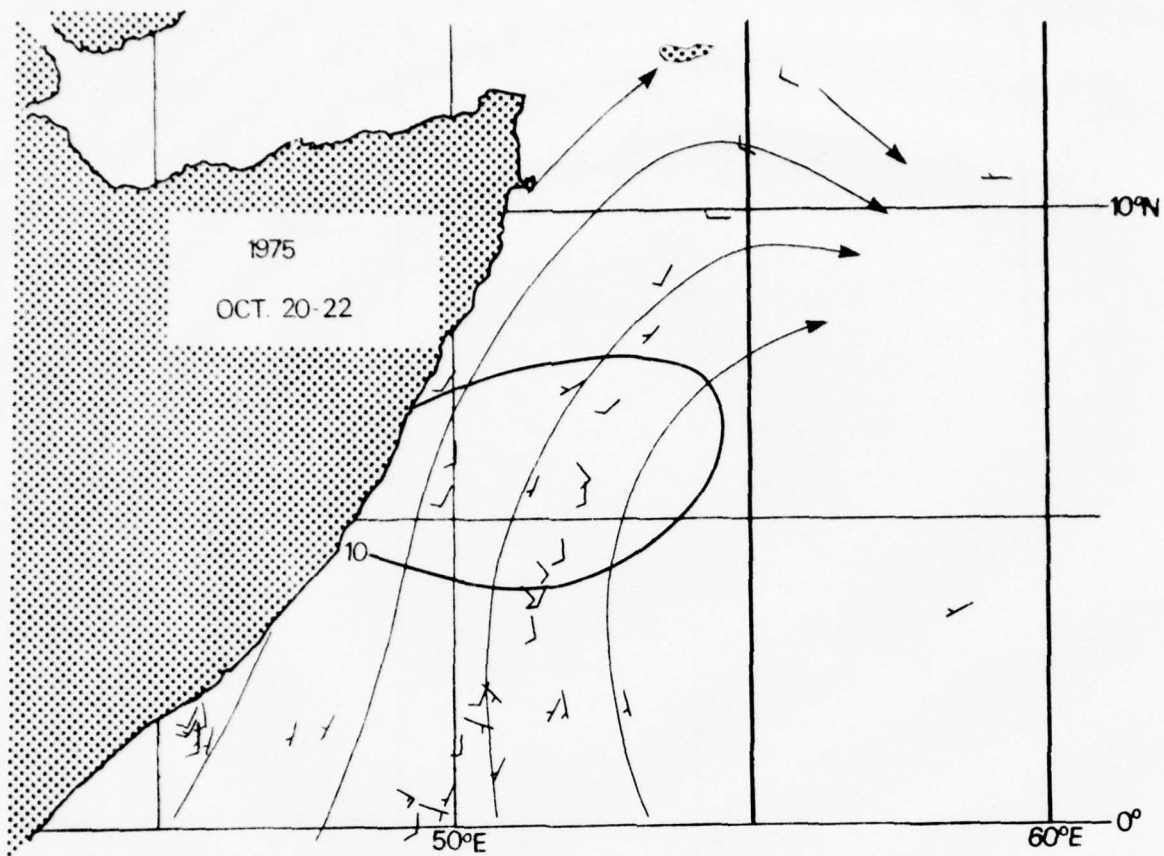


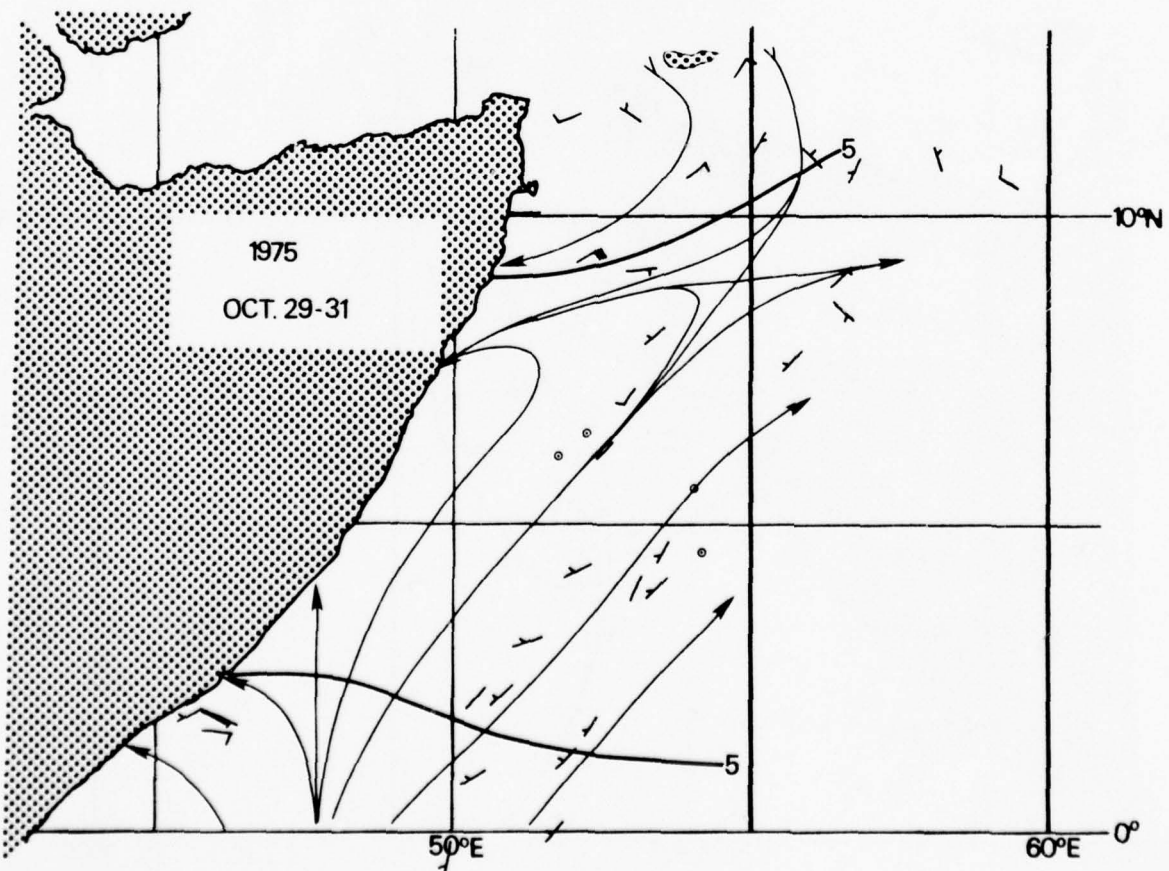
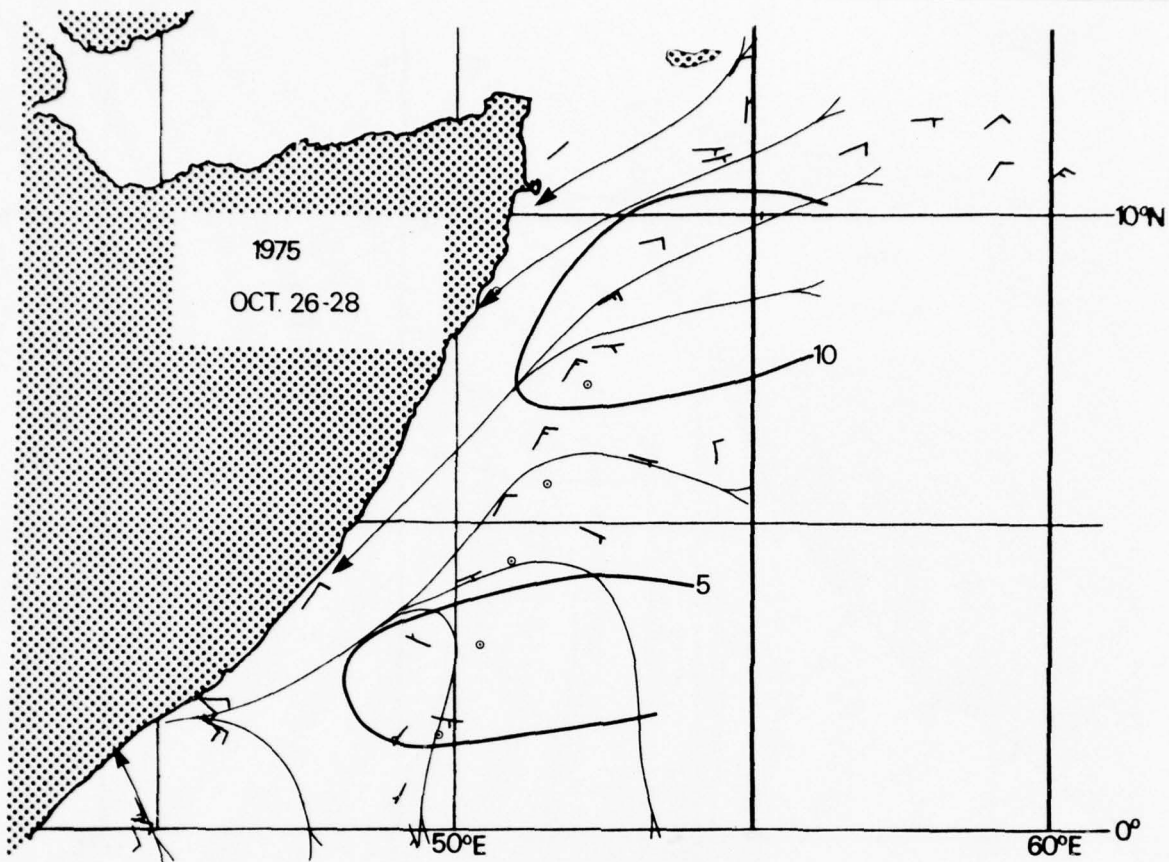


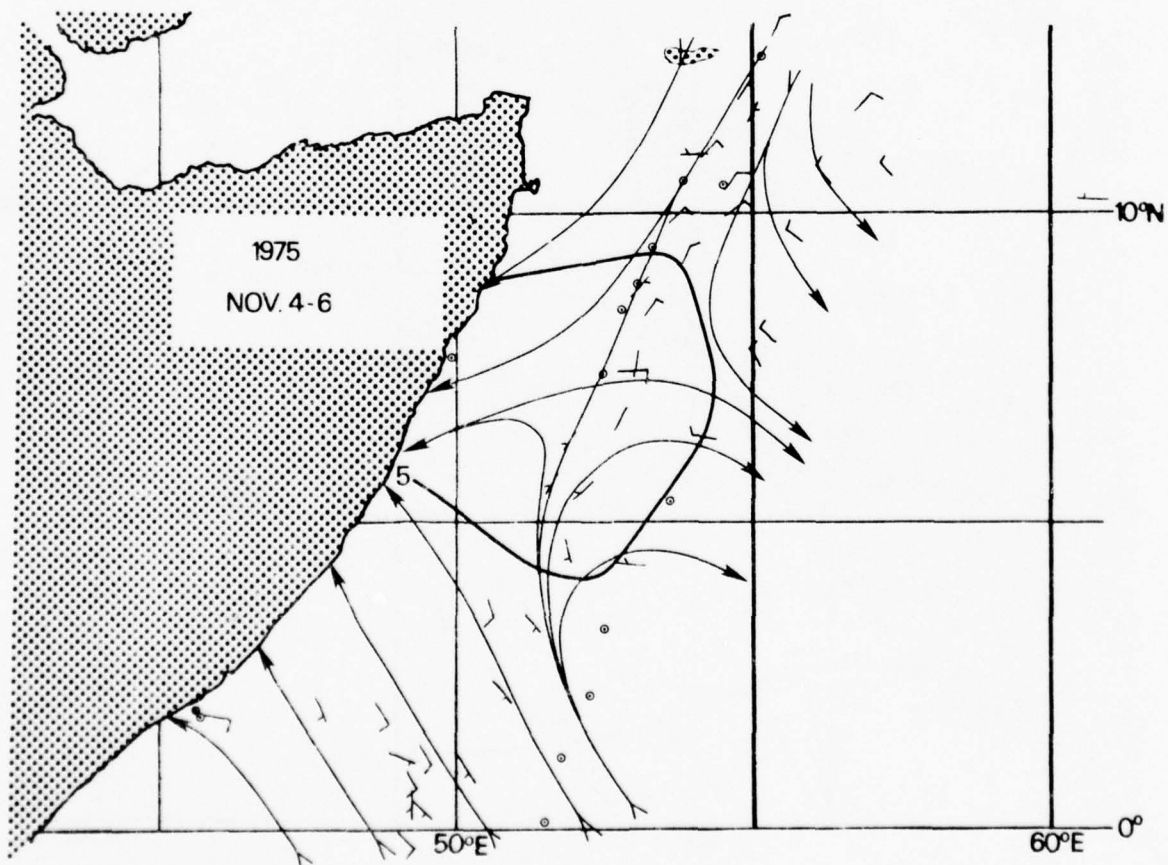
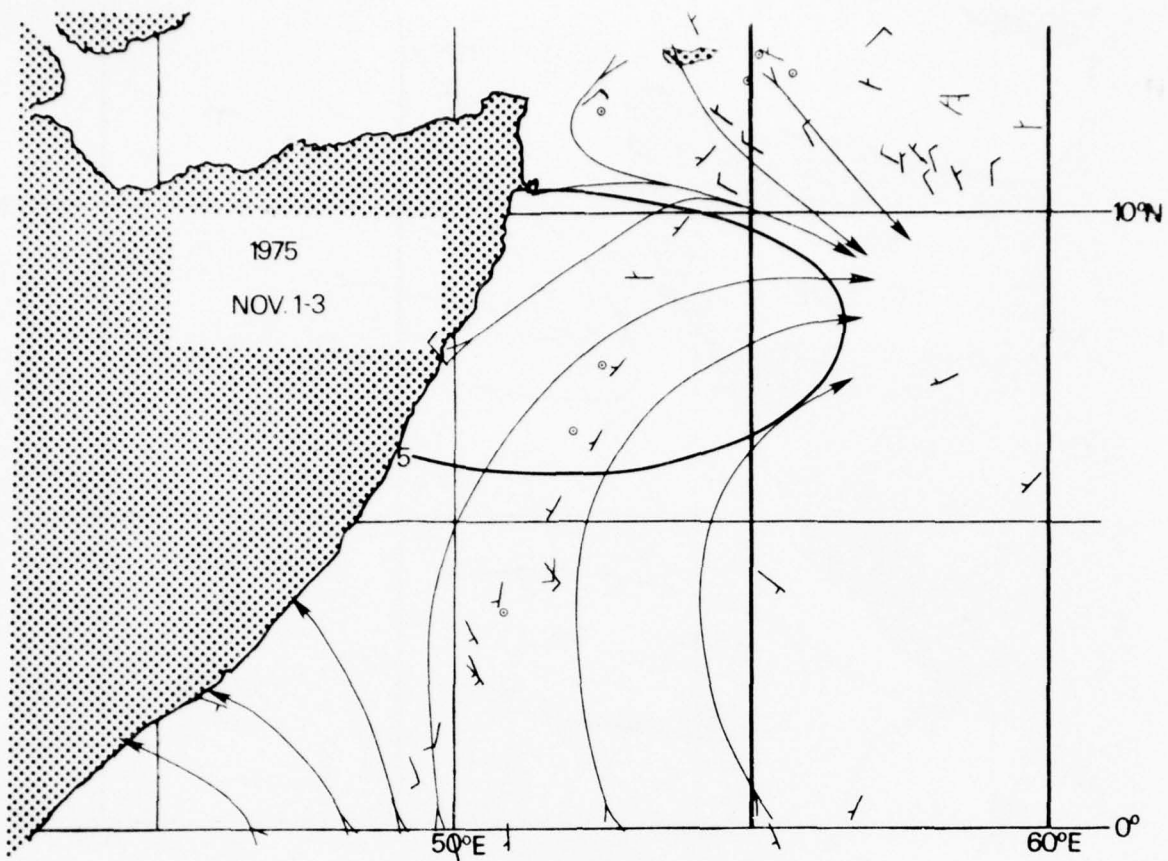


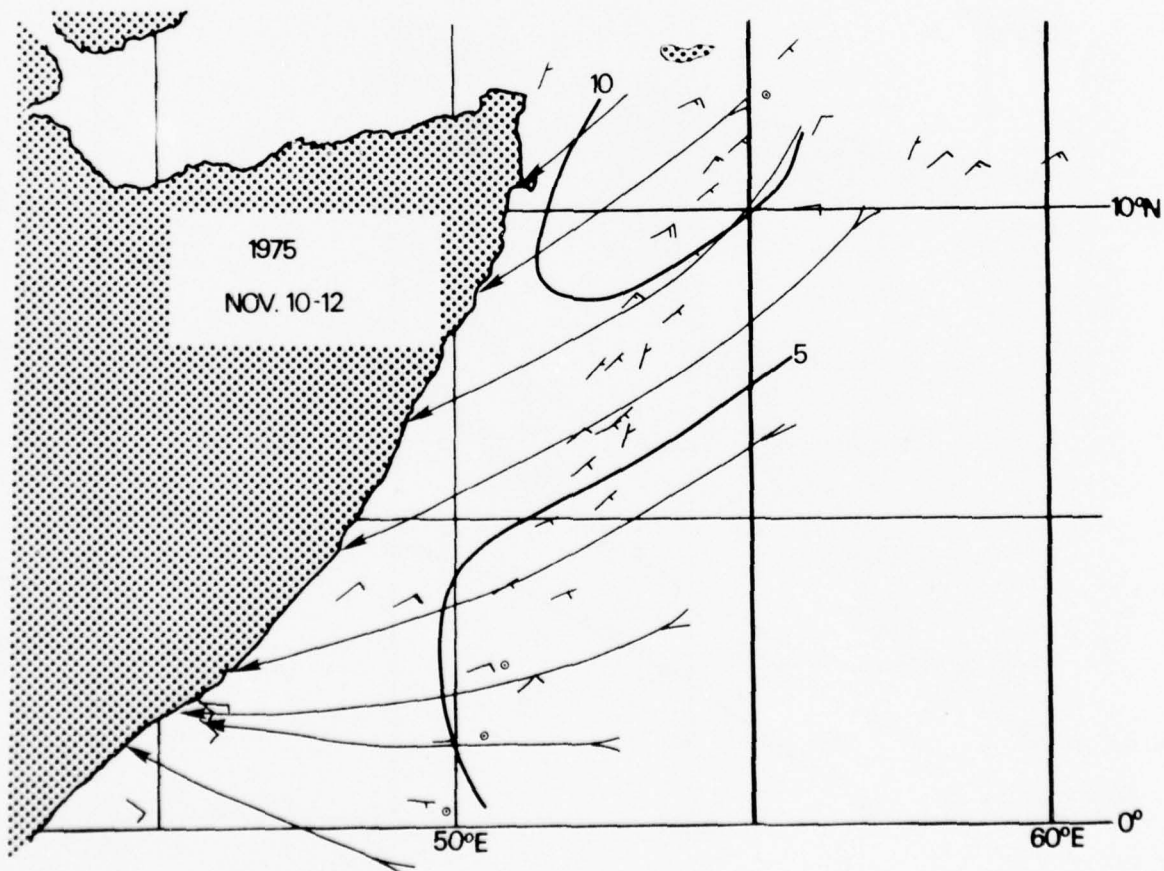
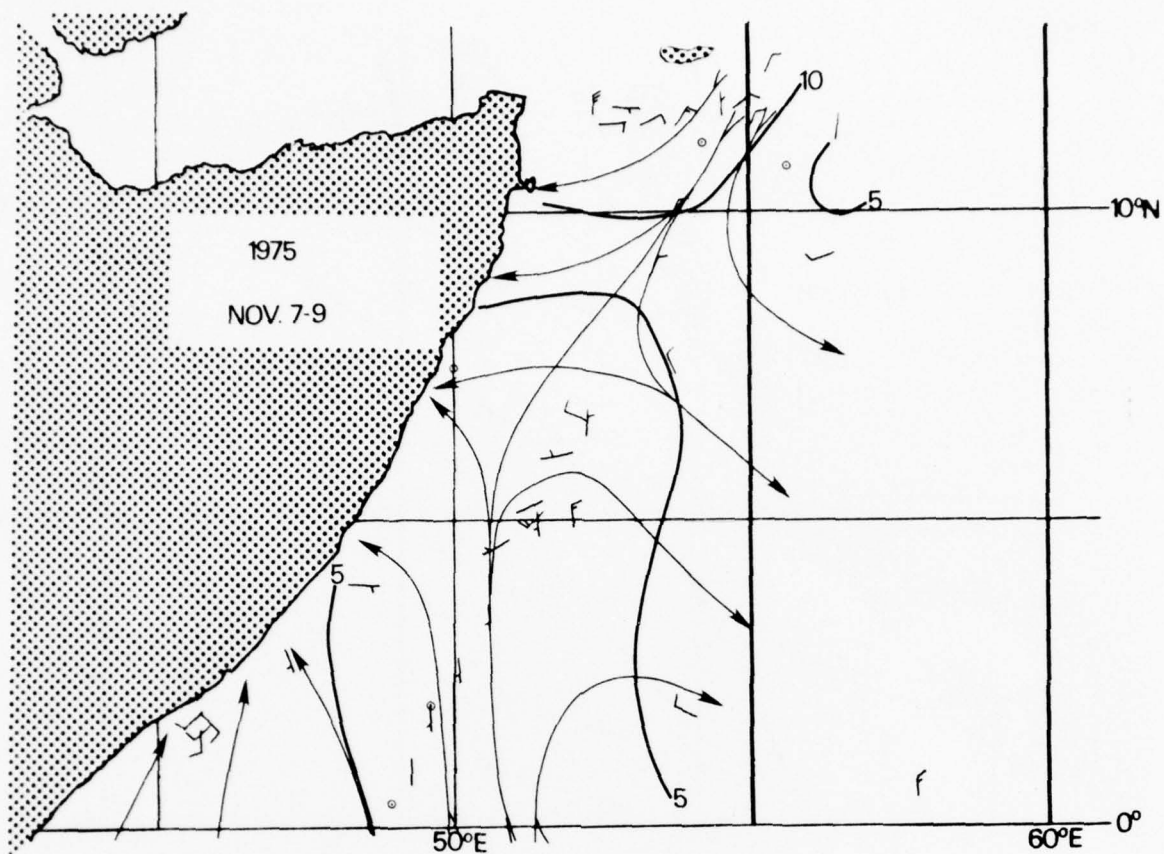




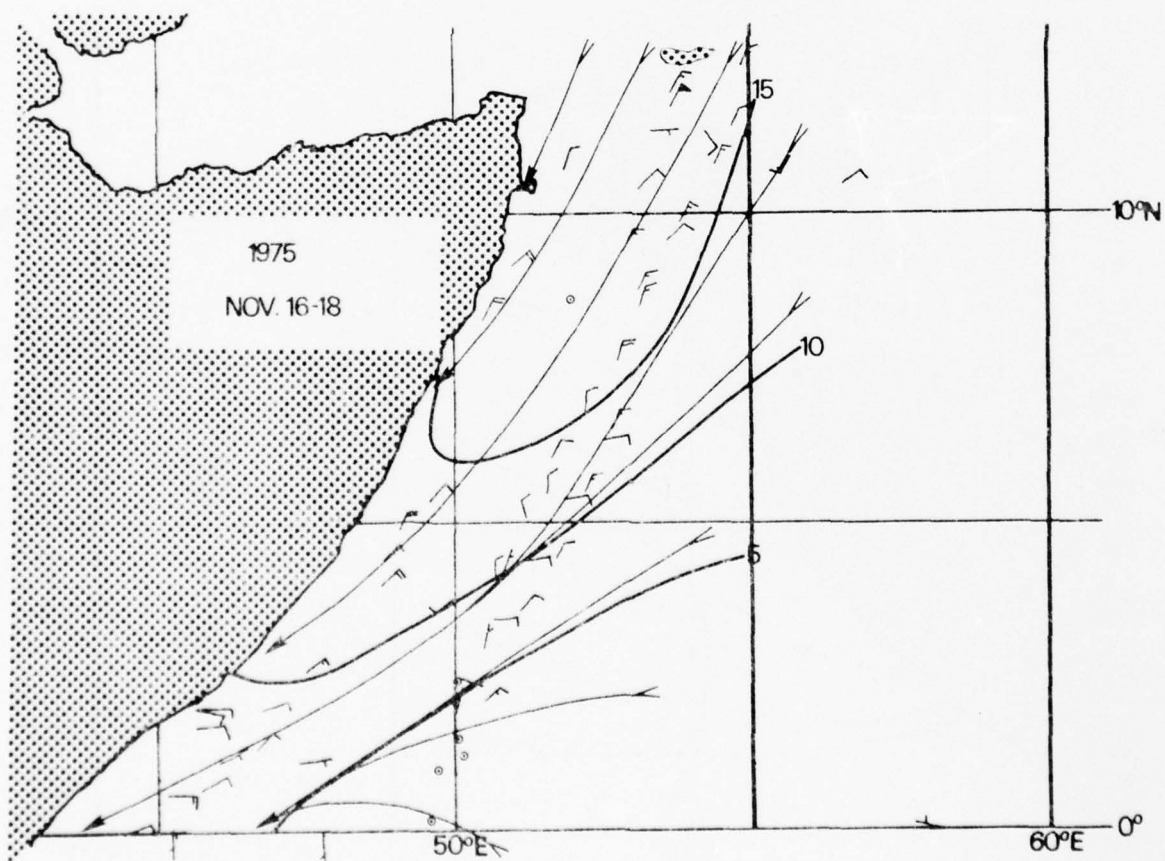
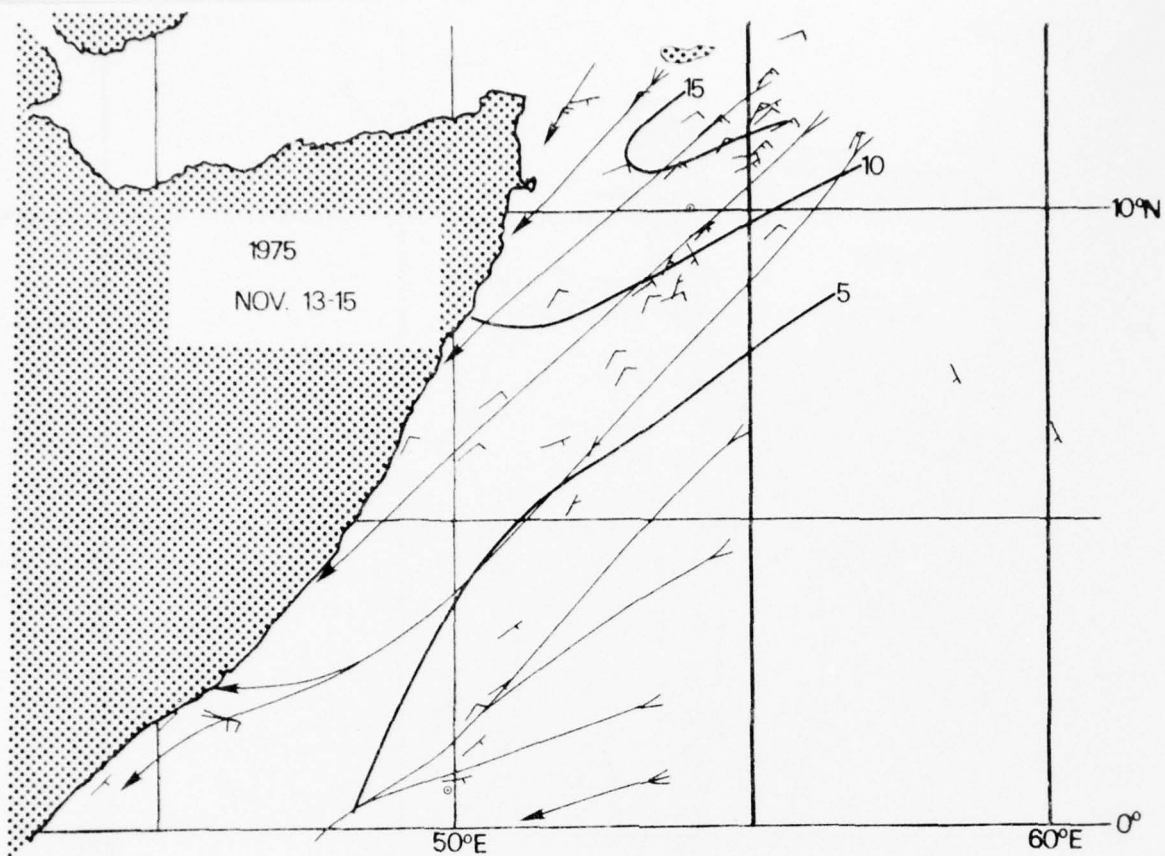


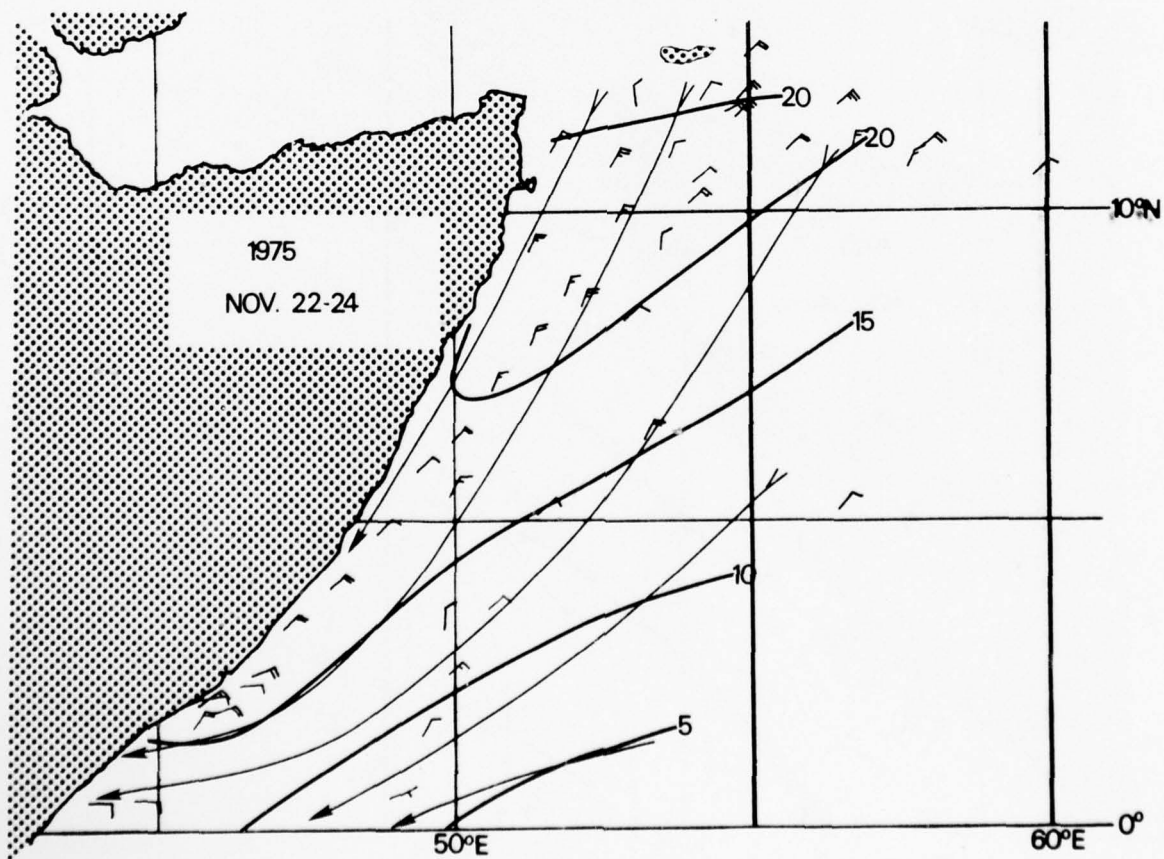
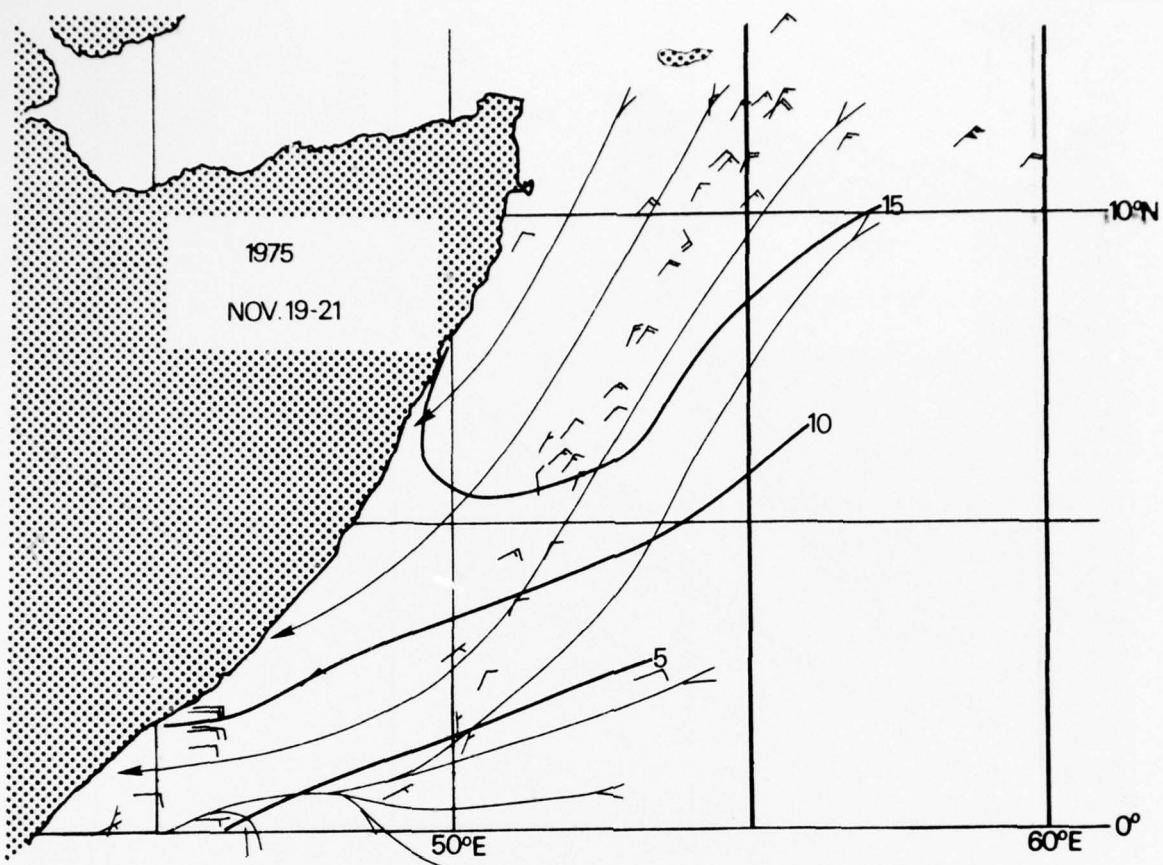


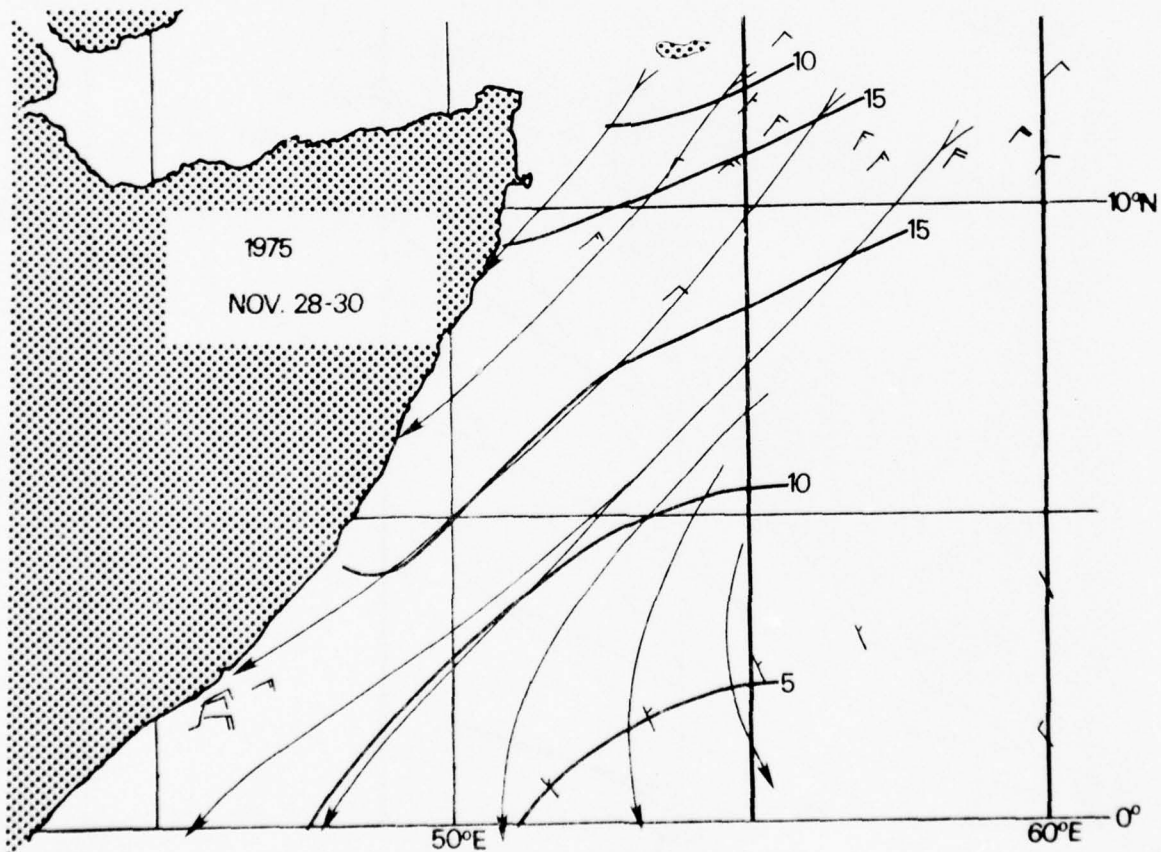
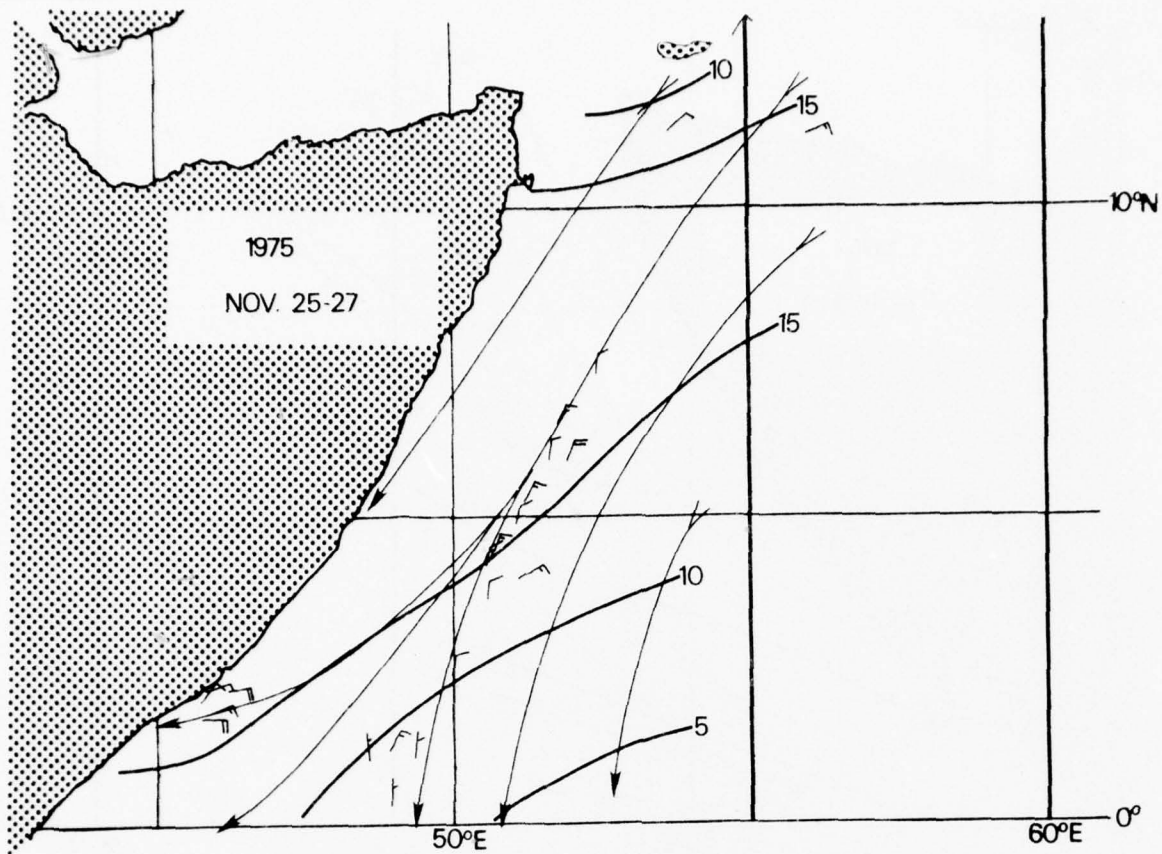


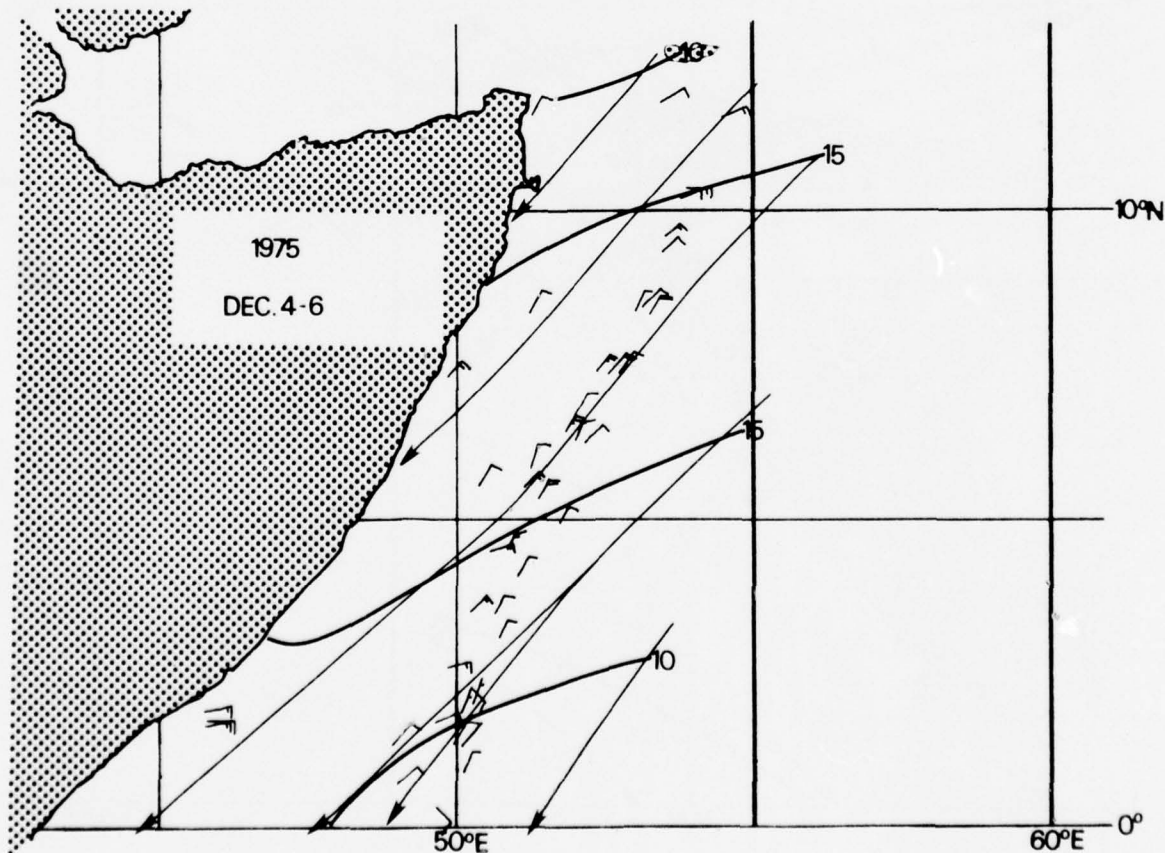
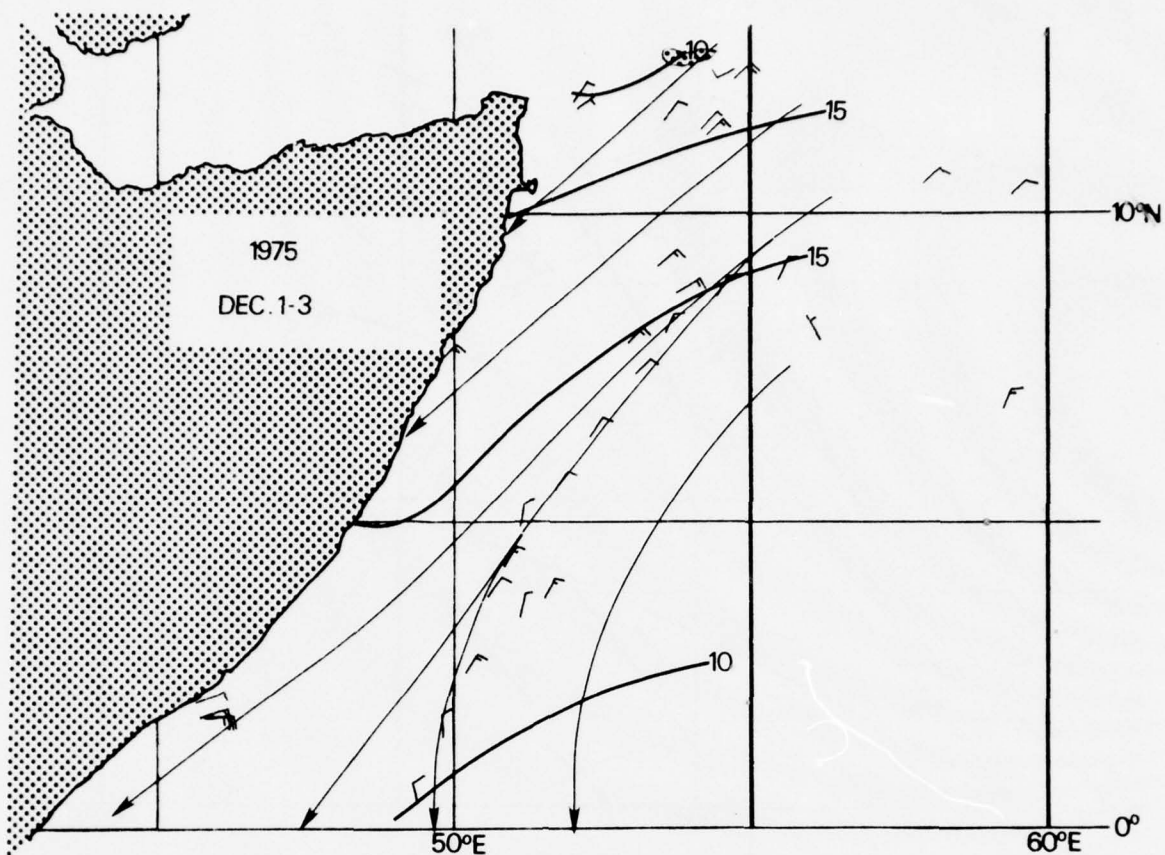




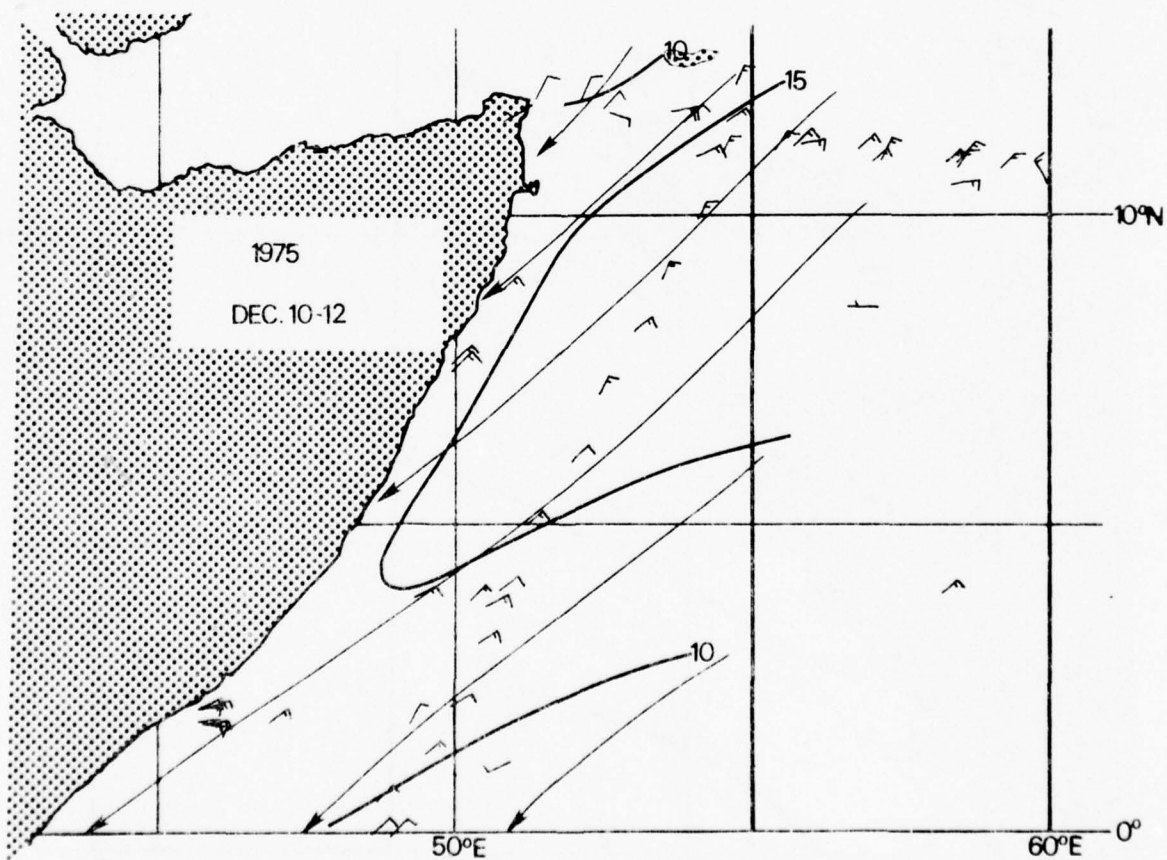
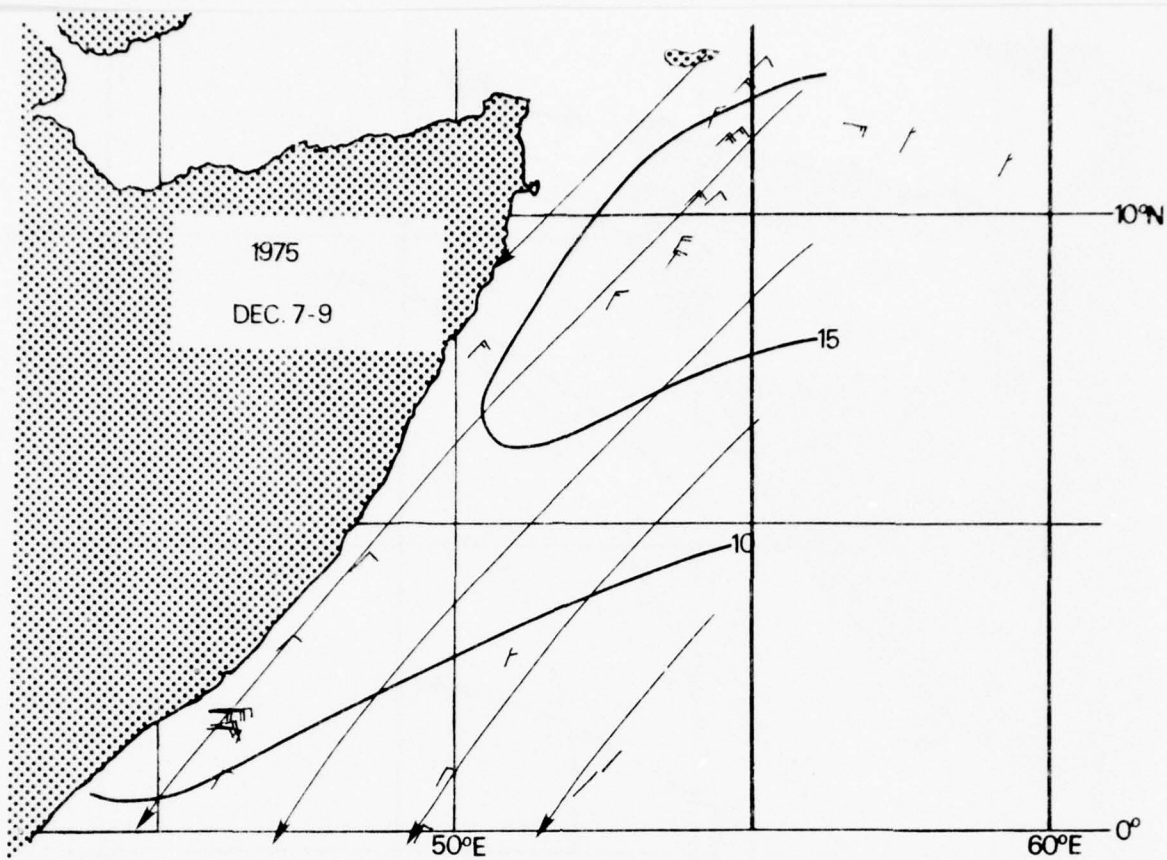


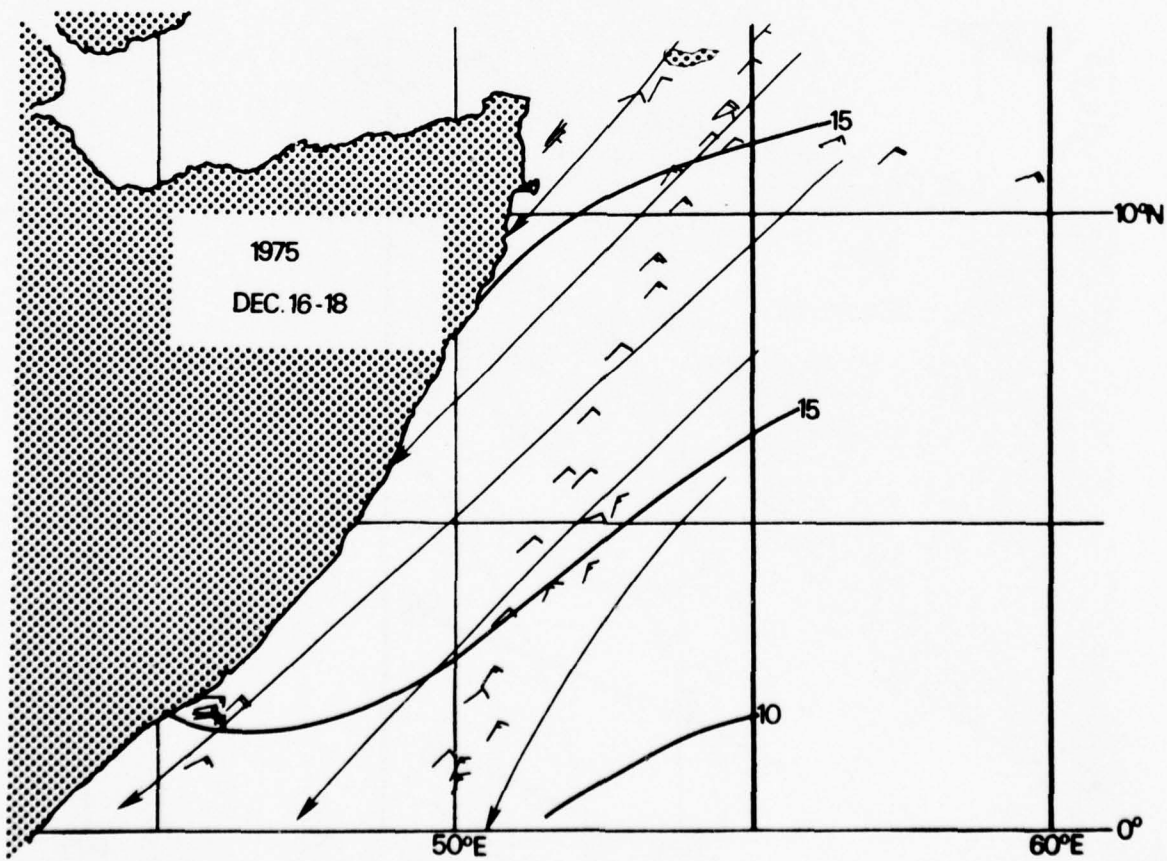
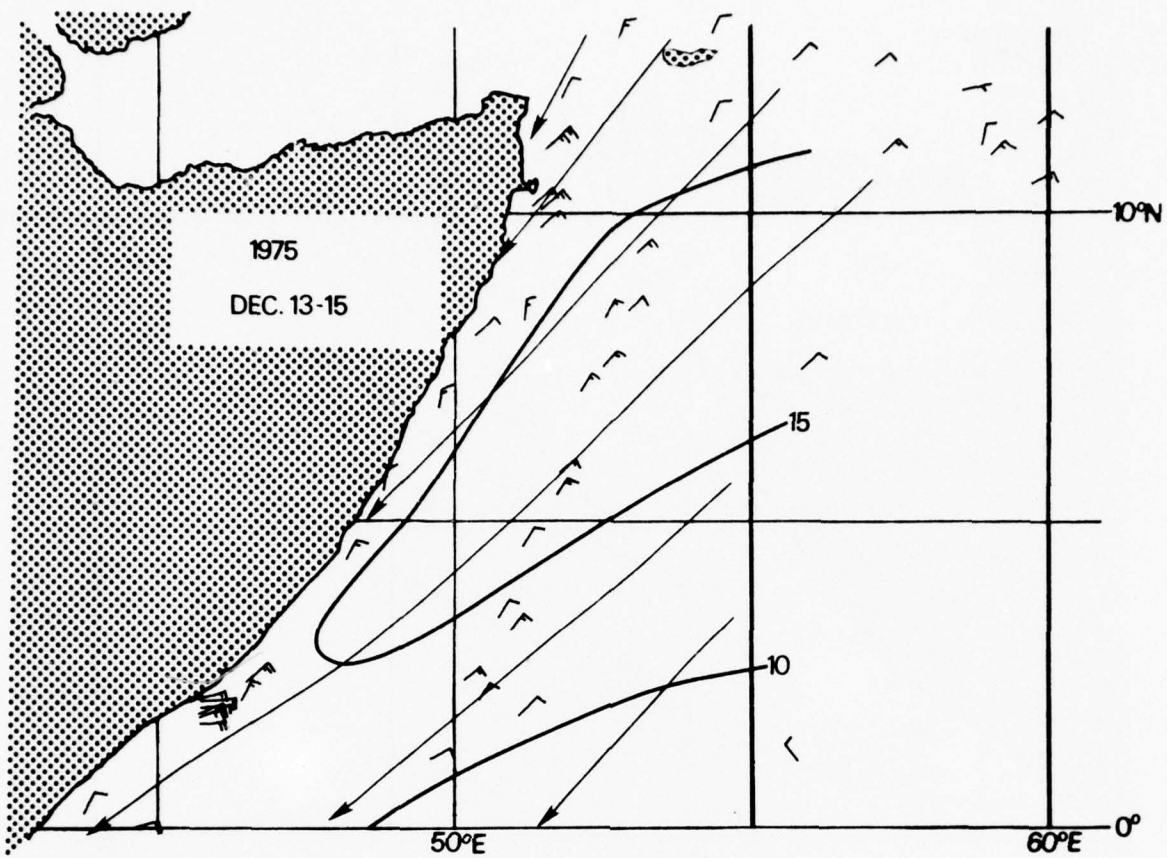


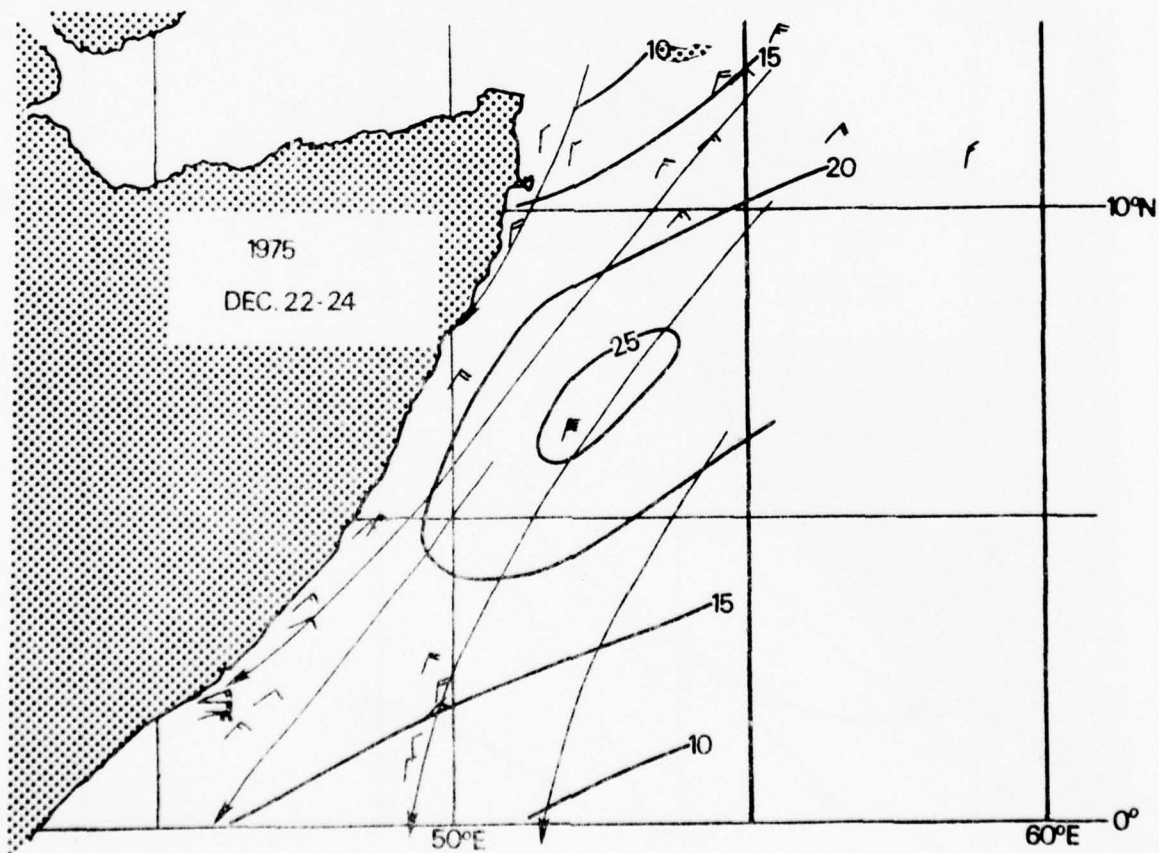
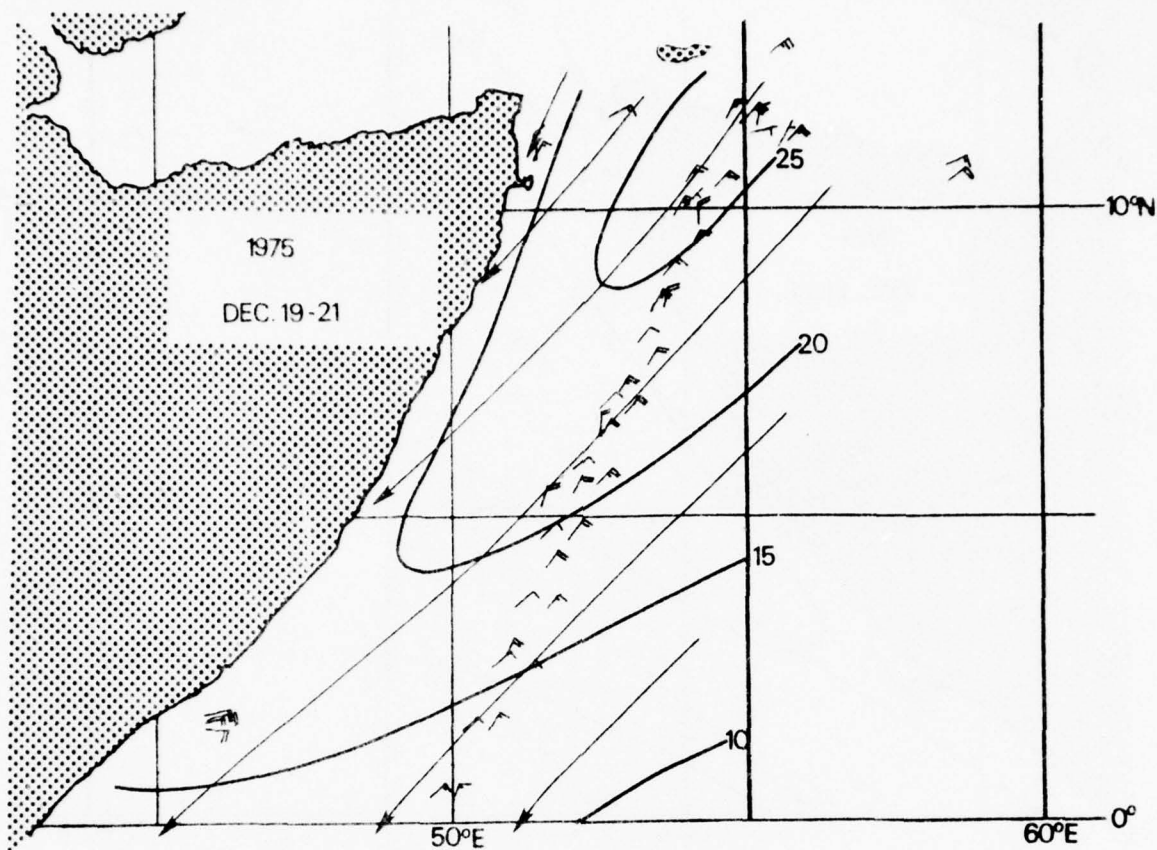




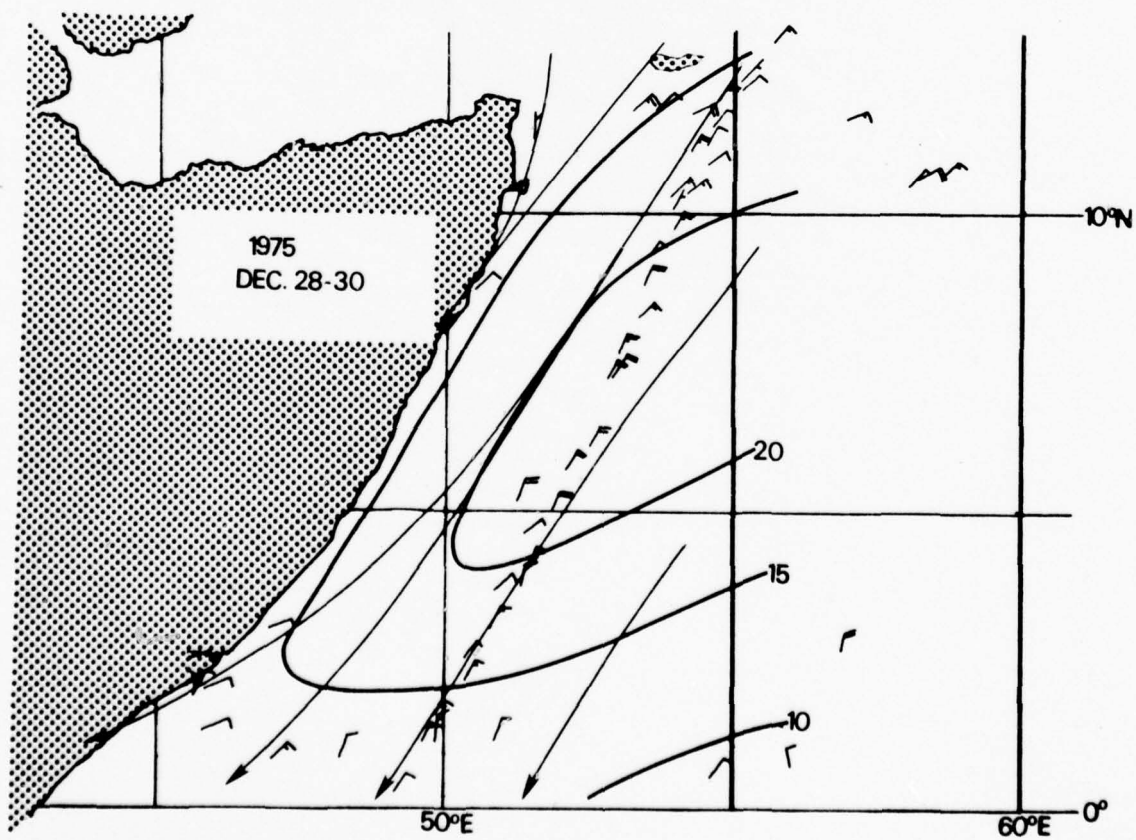
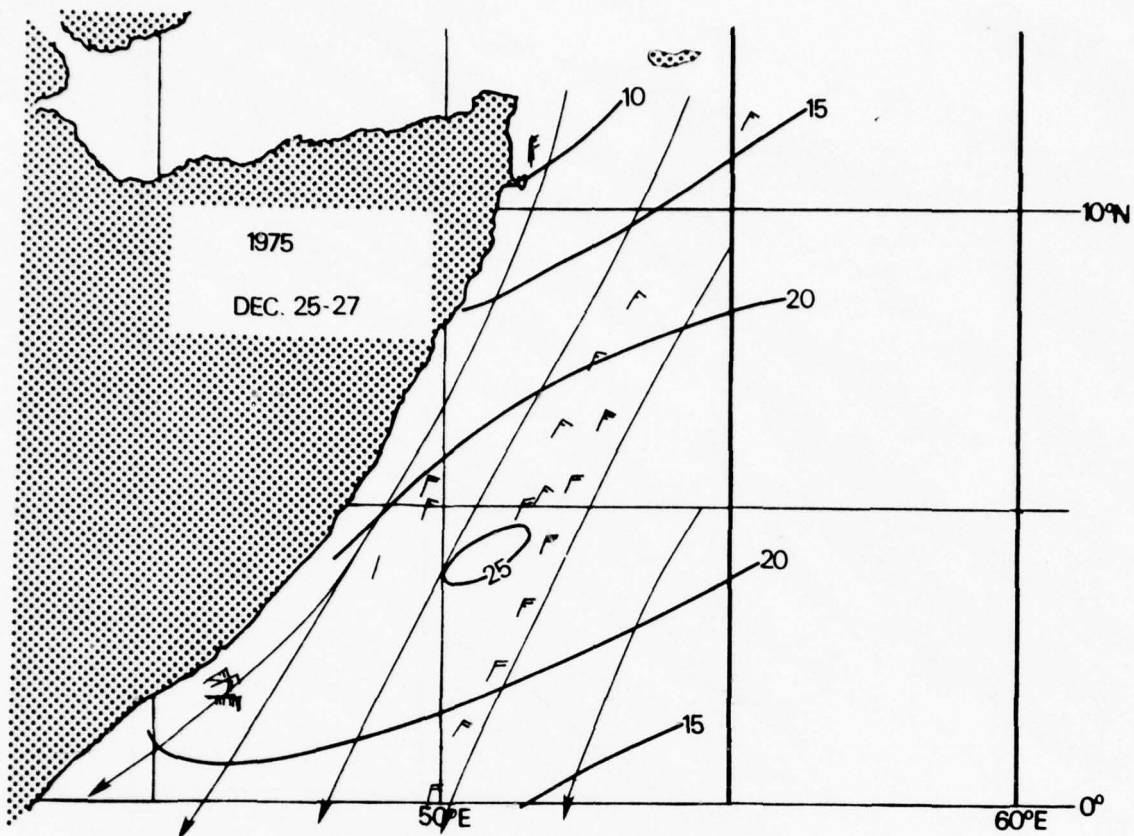




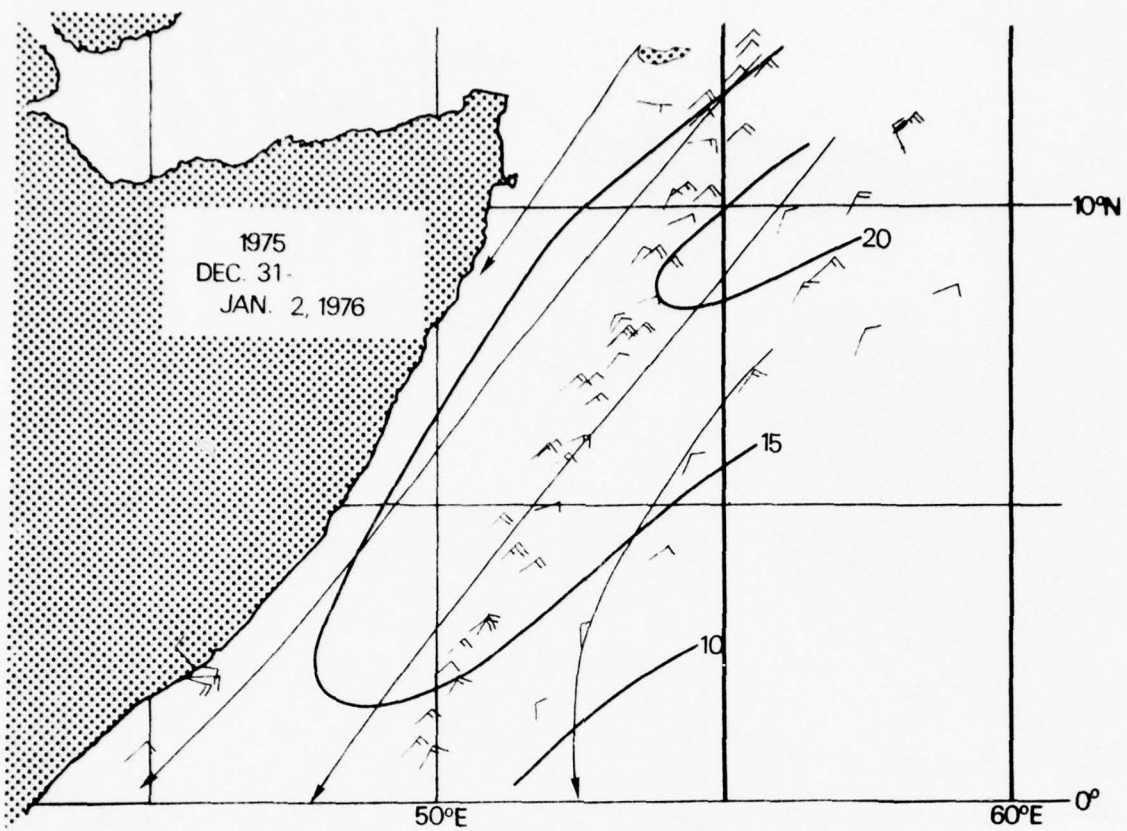








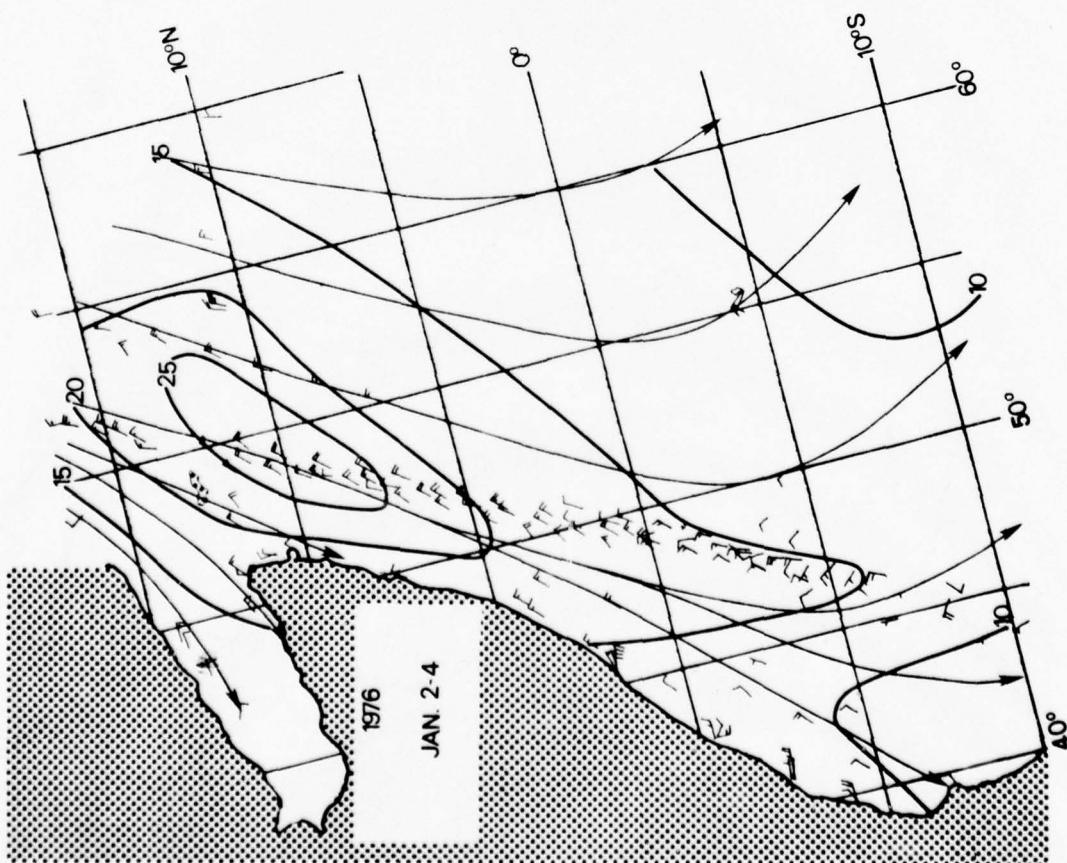
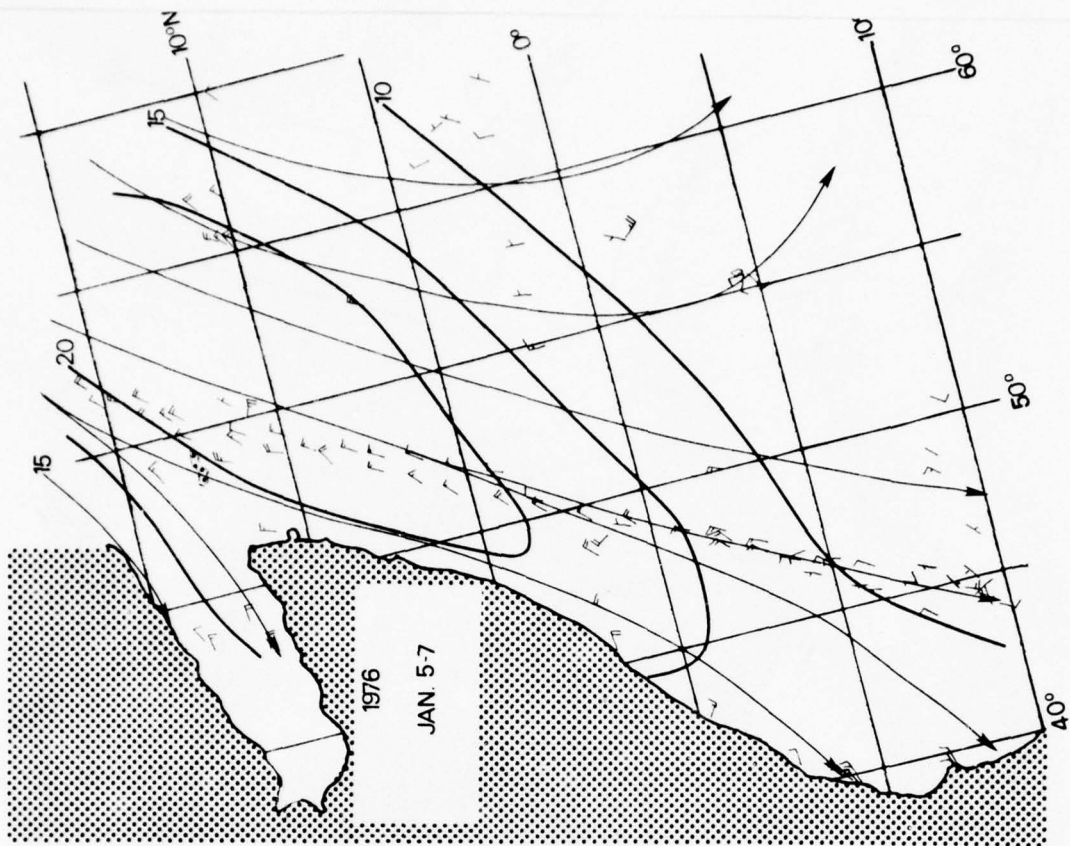


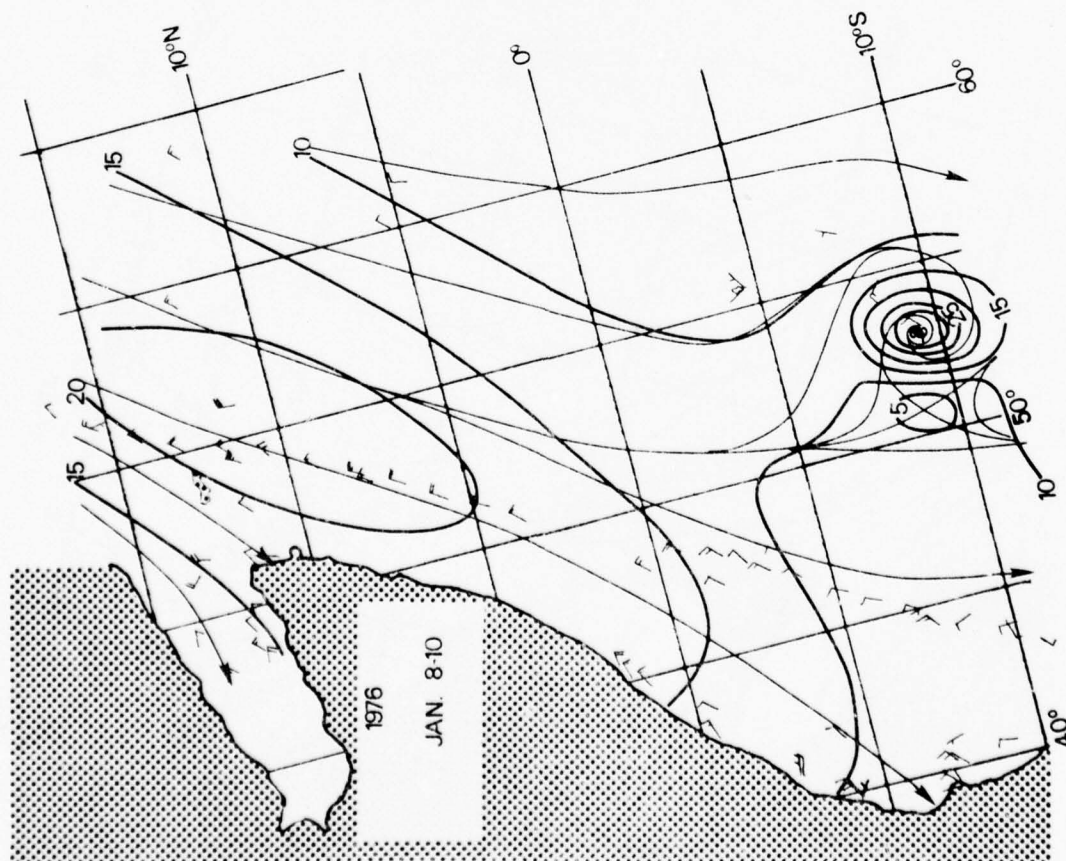
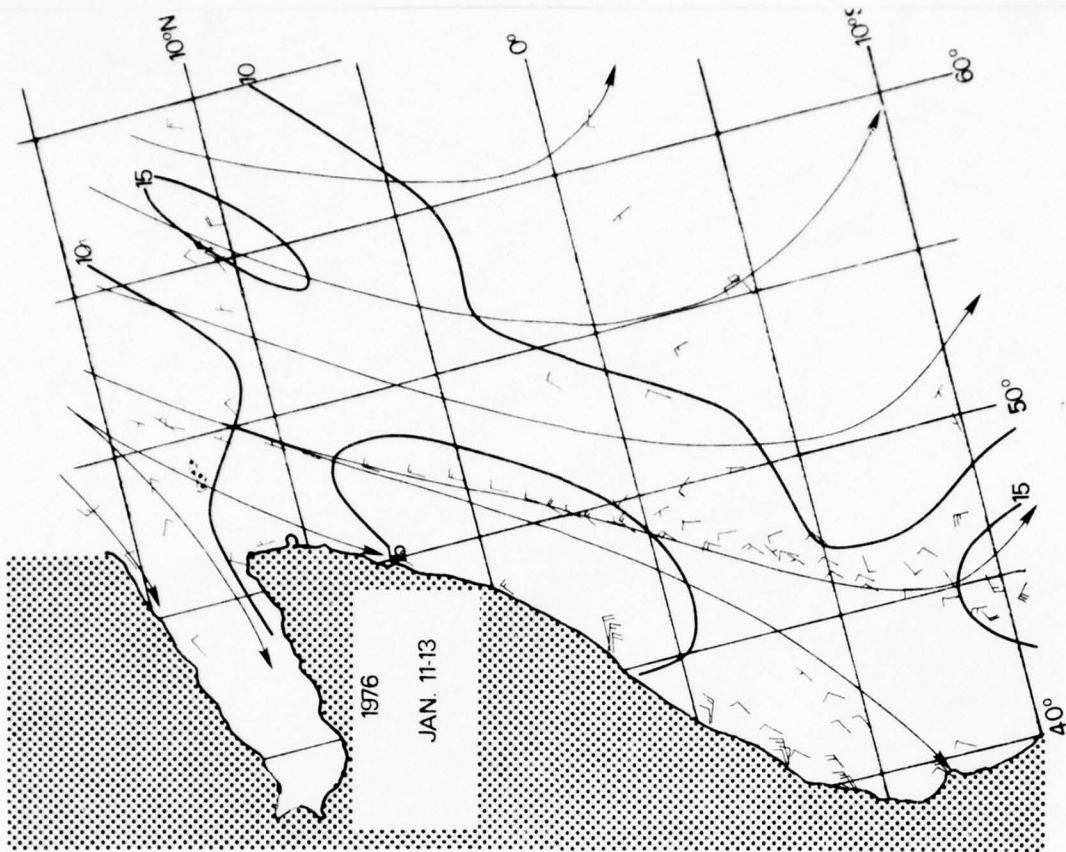


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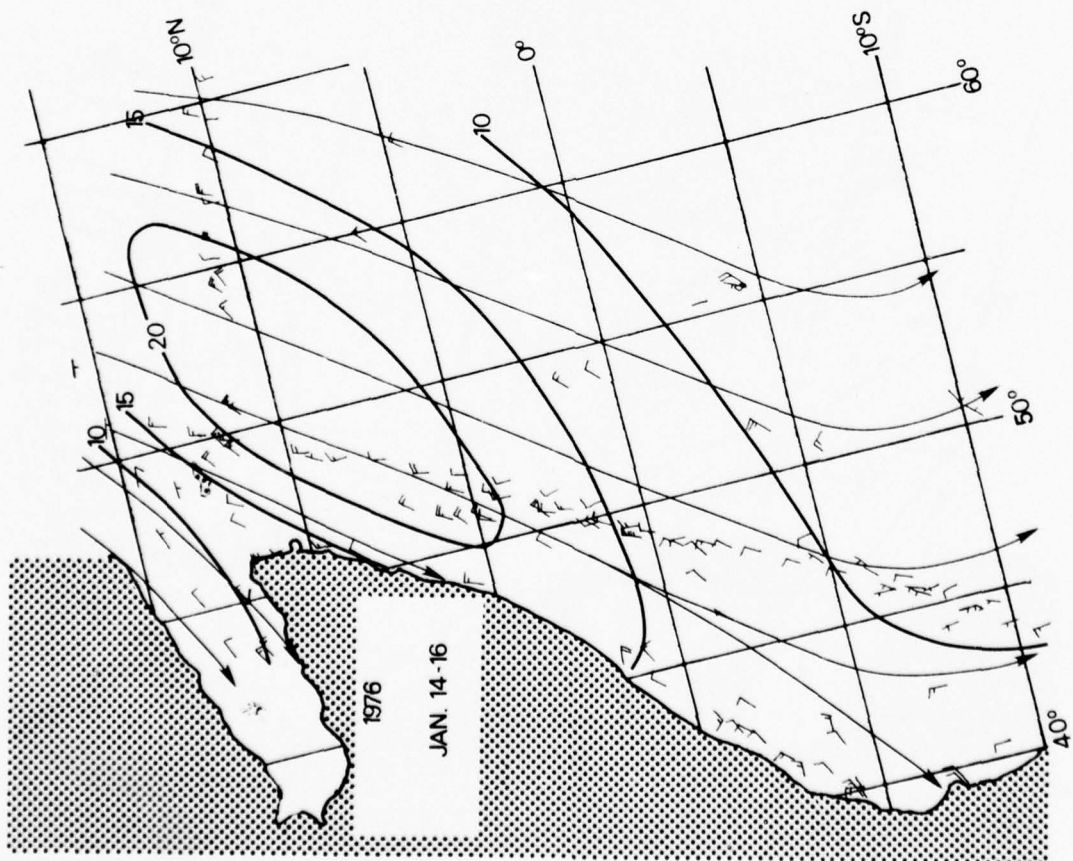
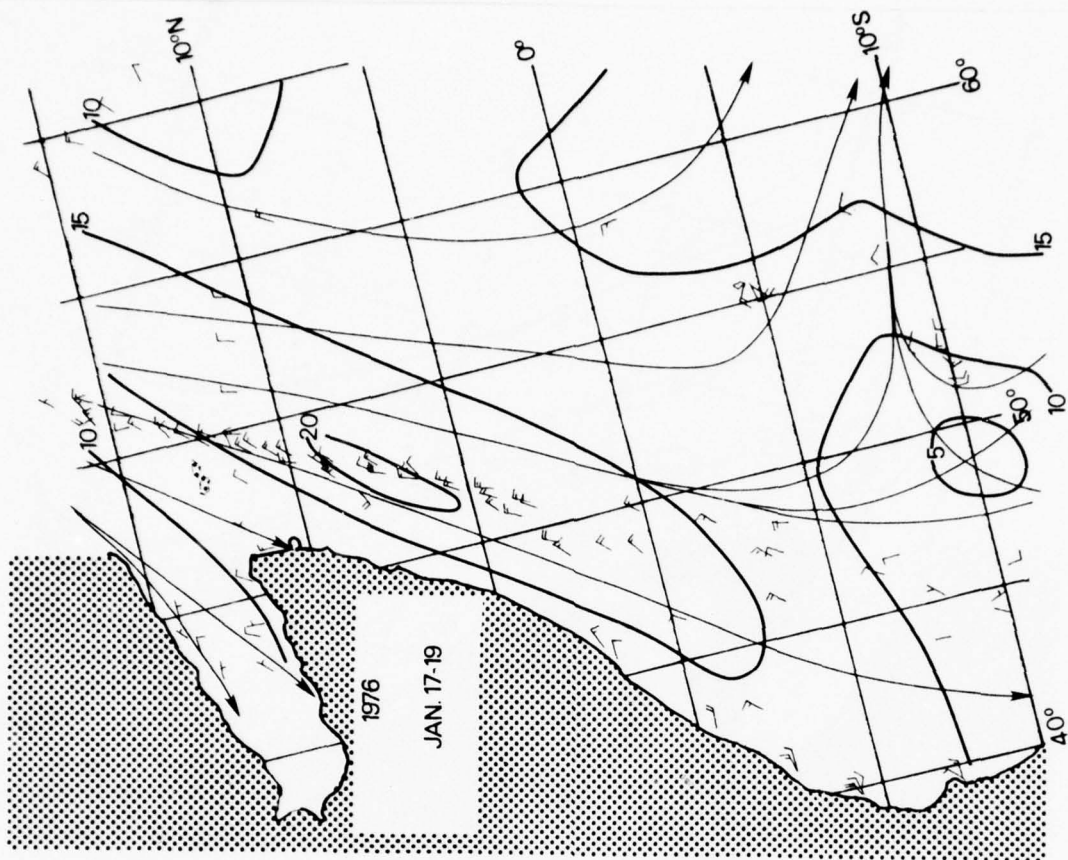
SURFACE WIND MAPS

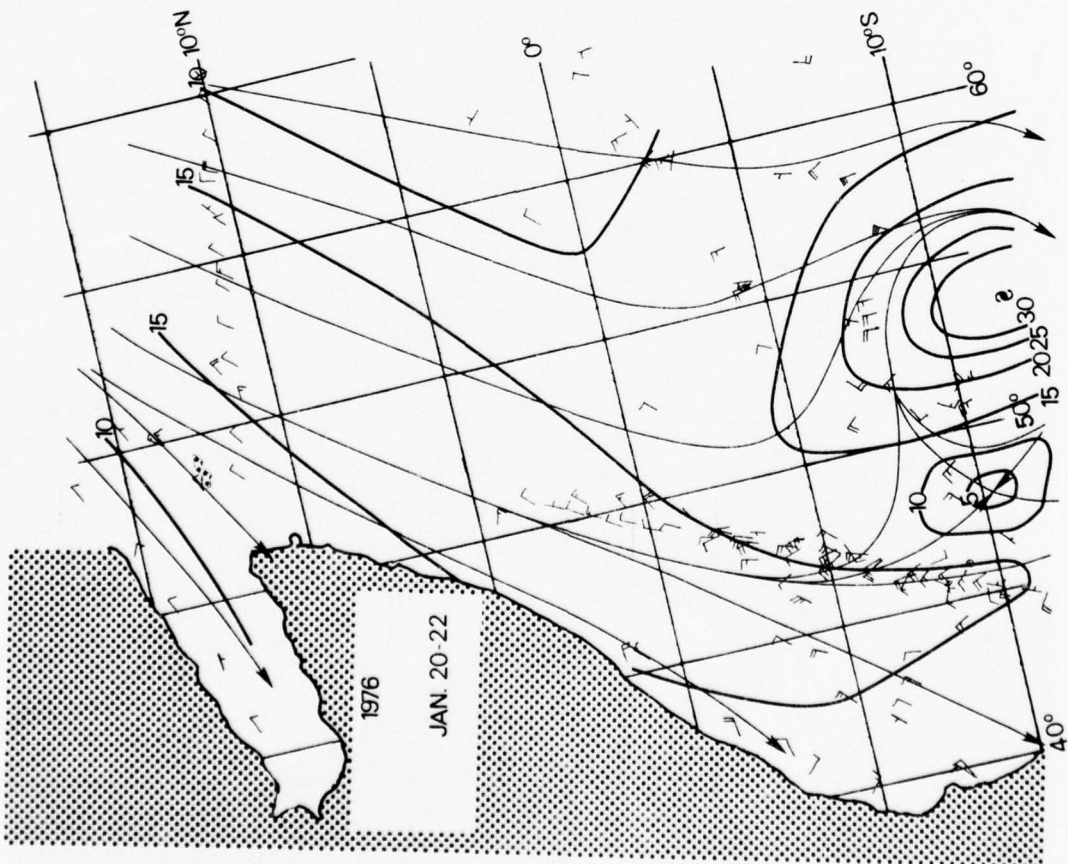
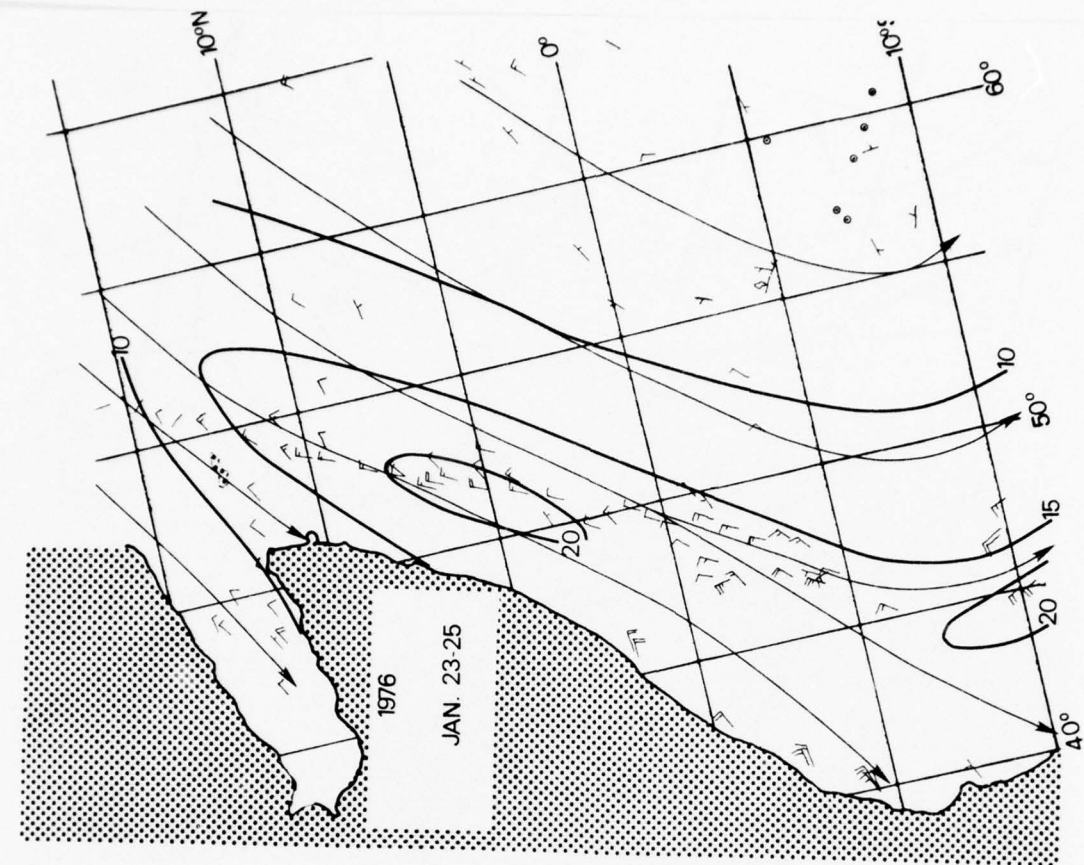
January to October 1976

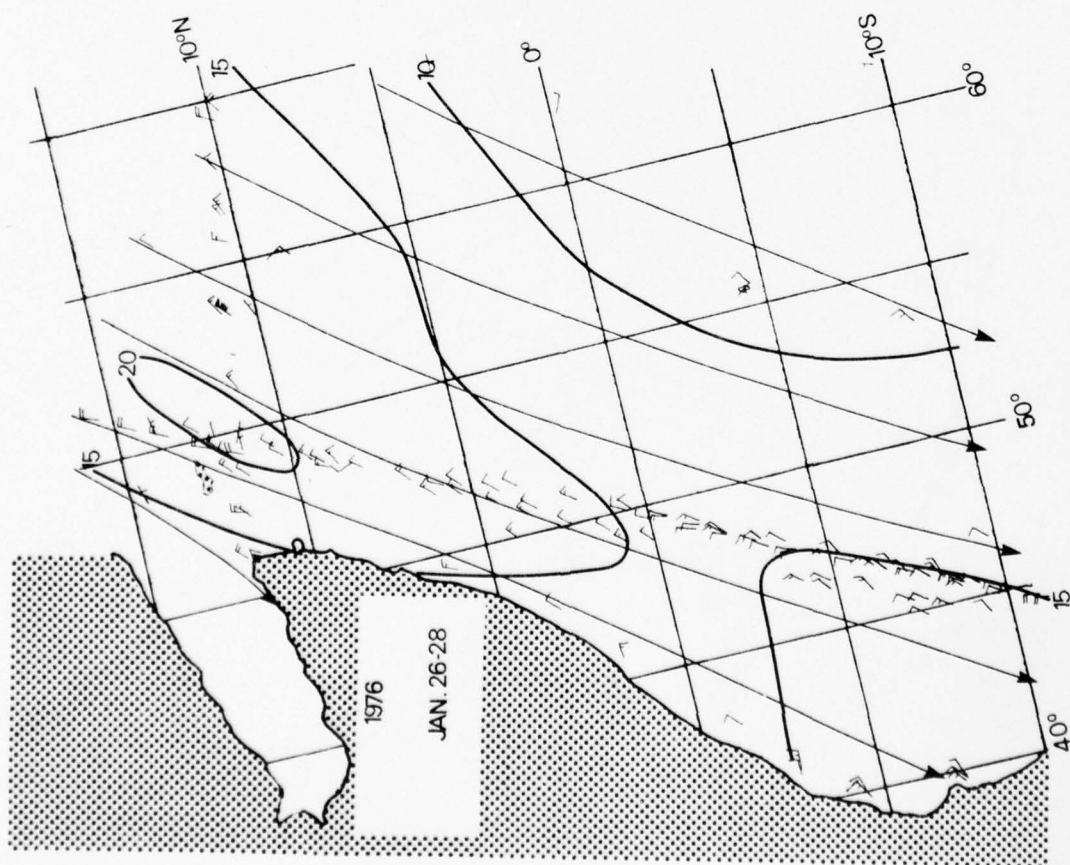
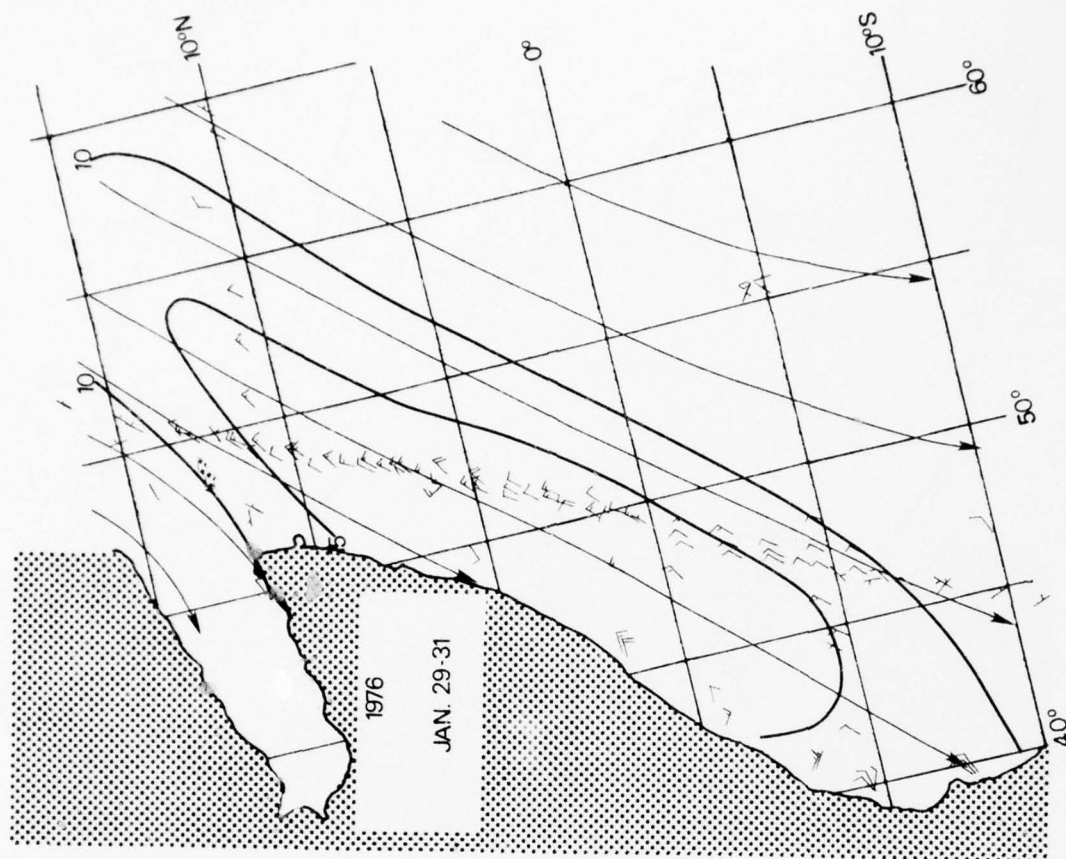




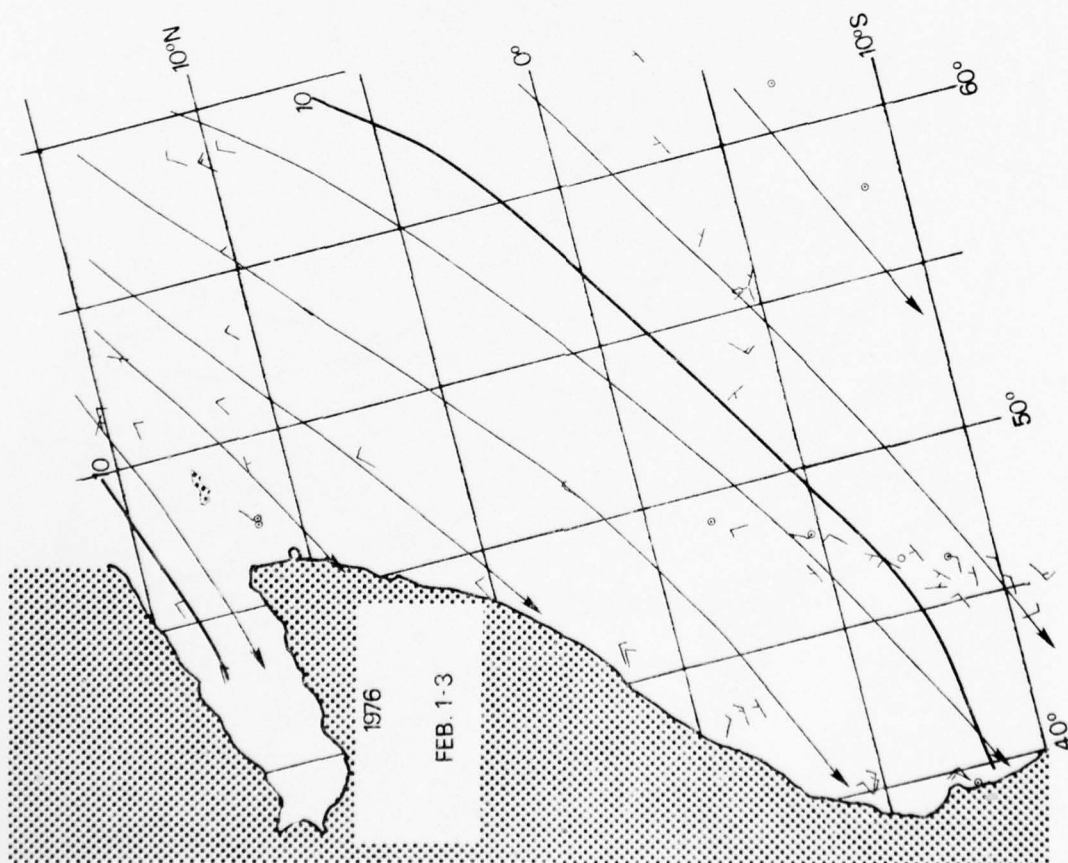
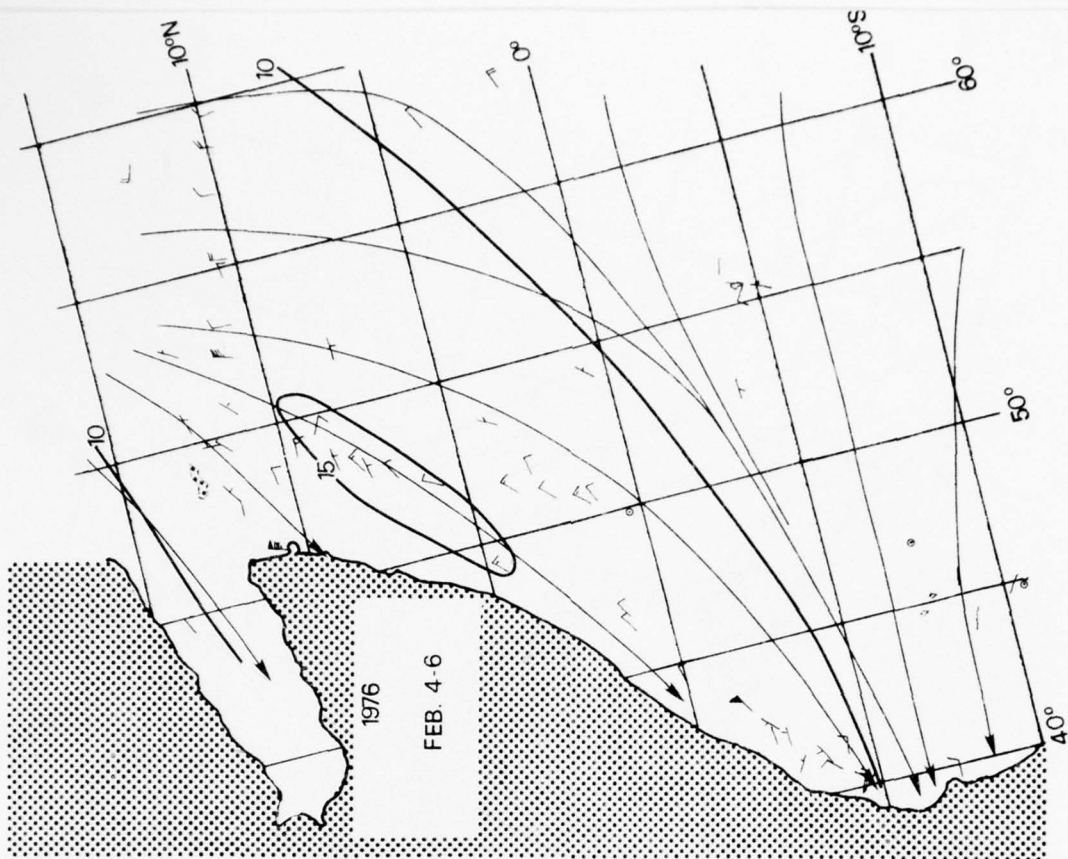




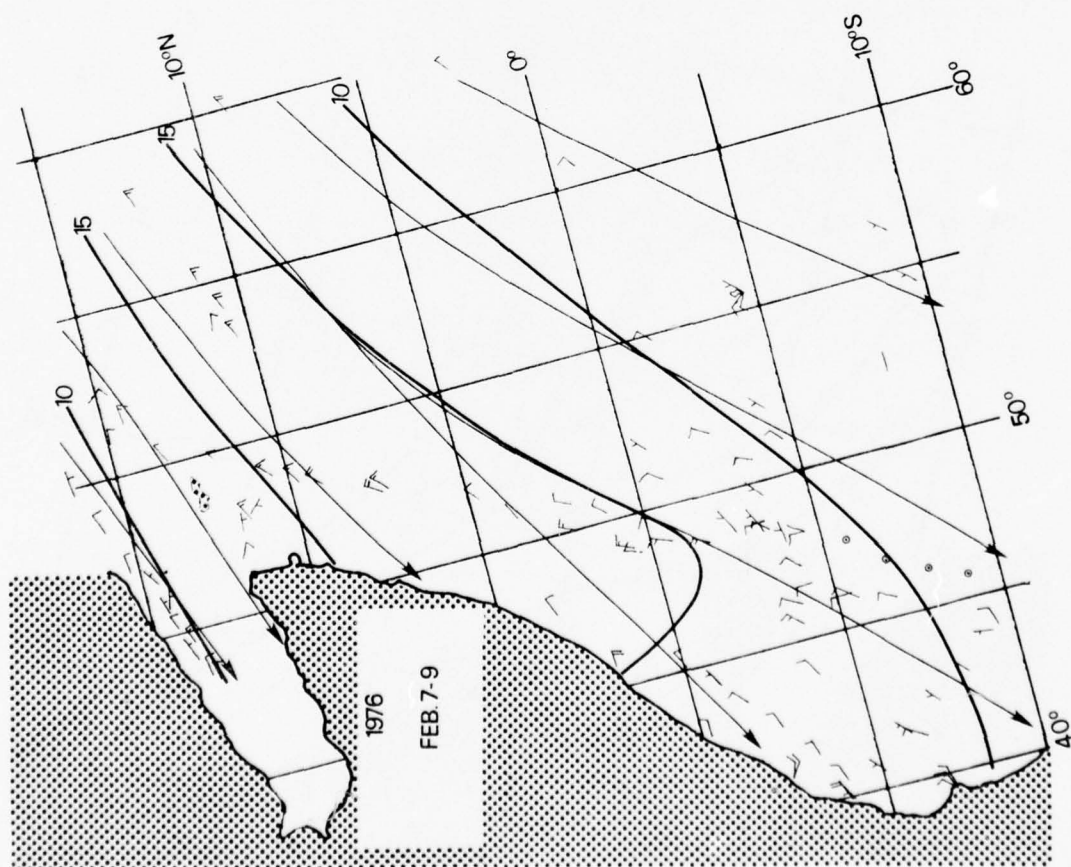
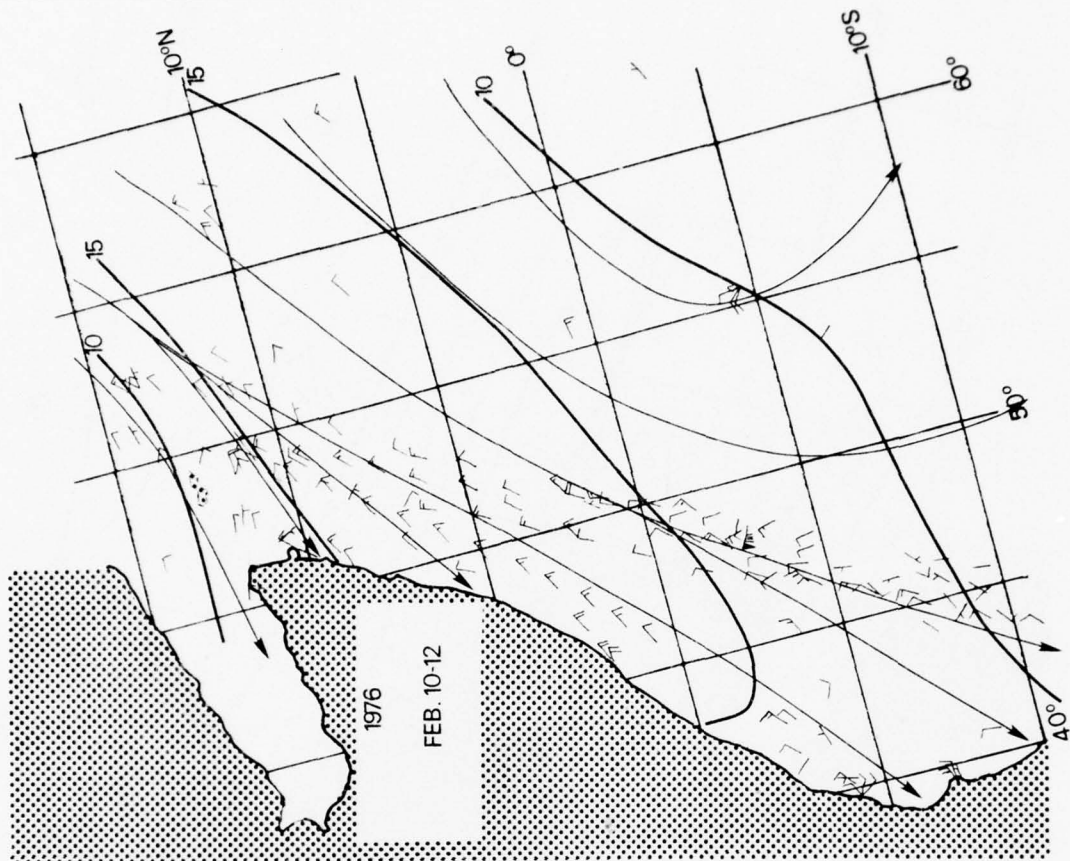


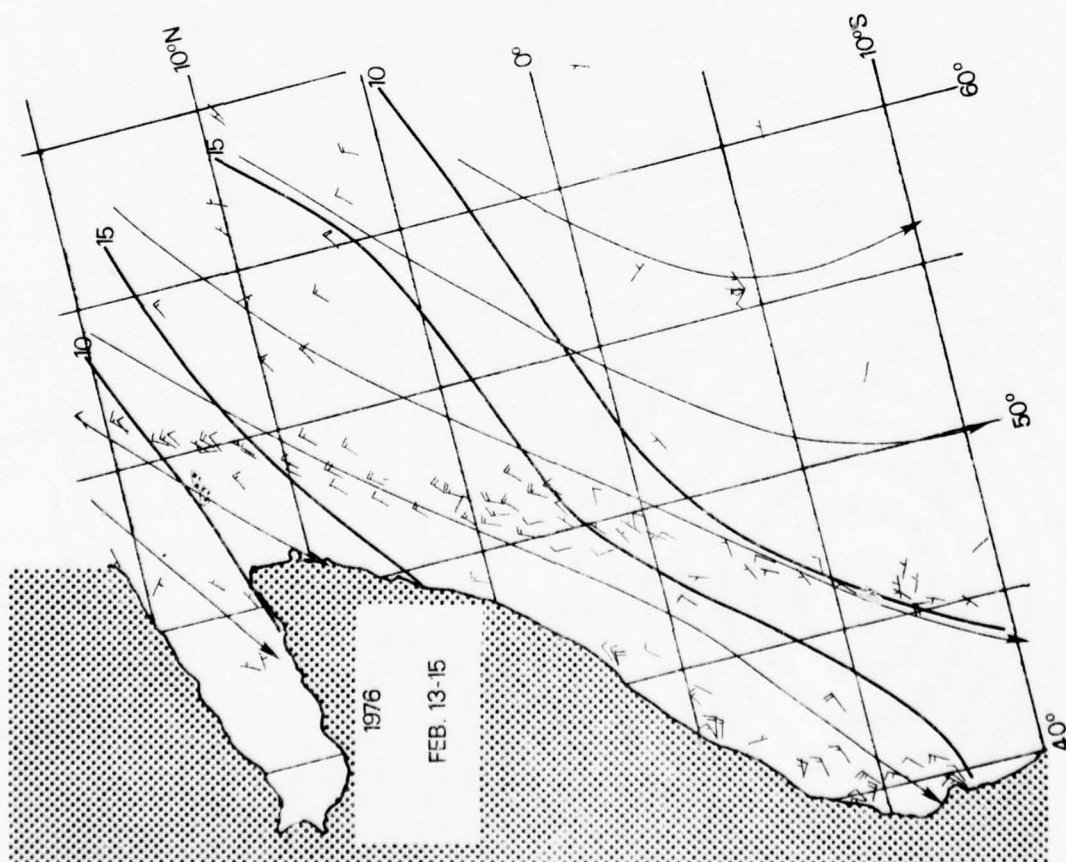
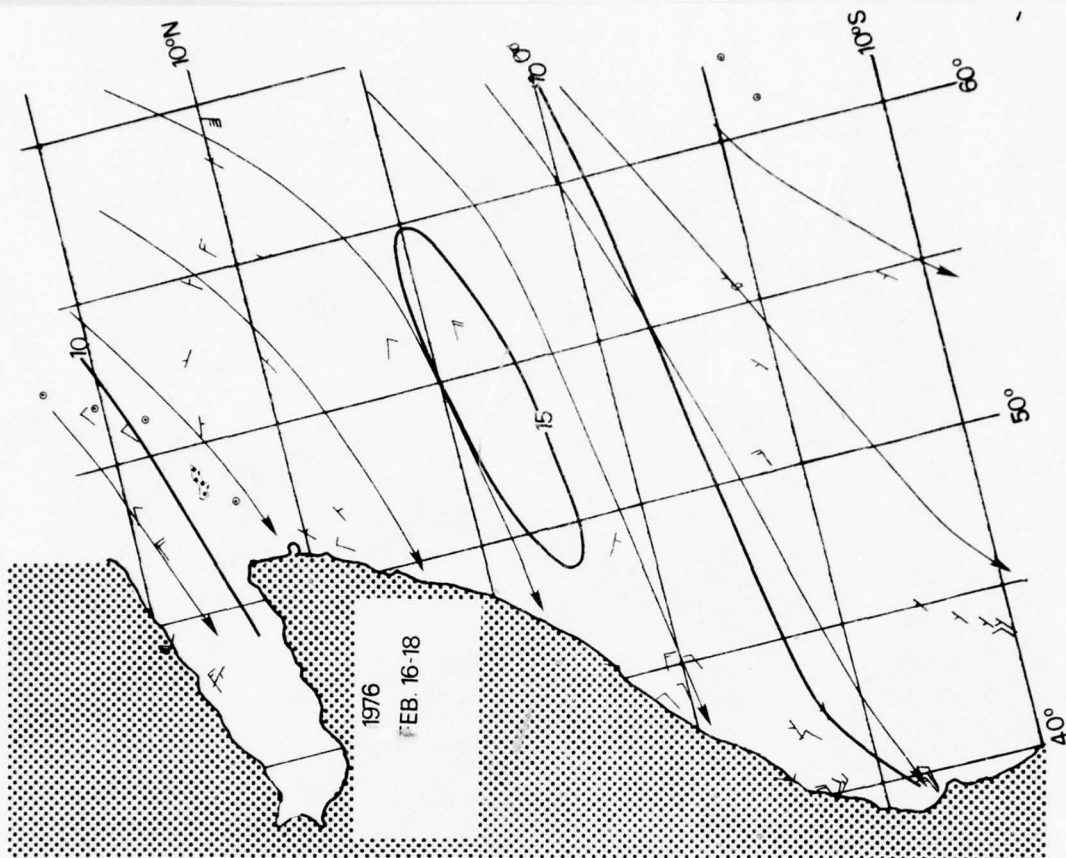


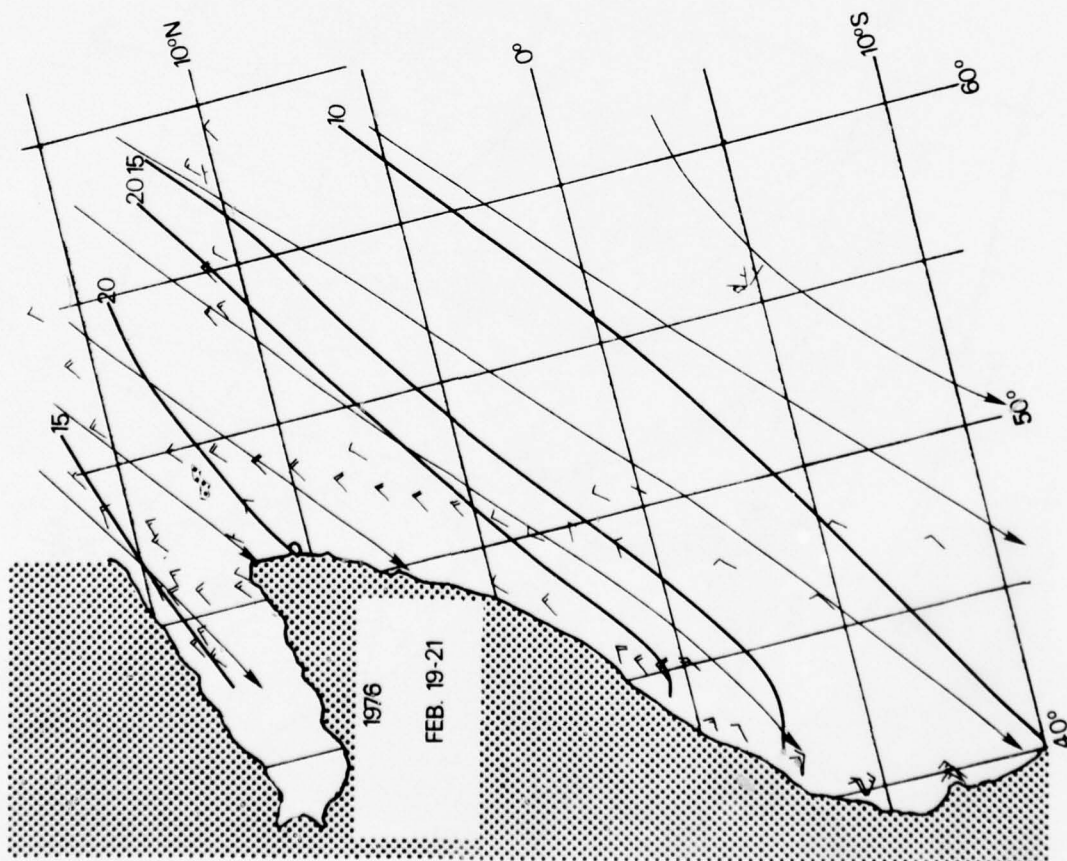
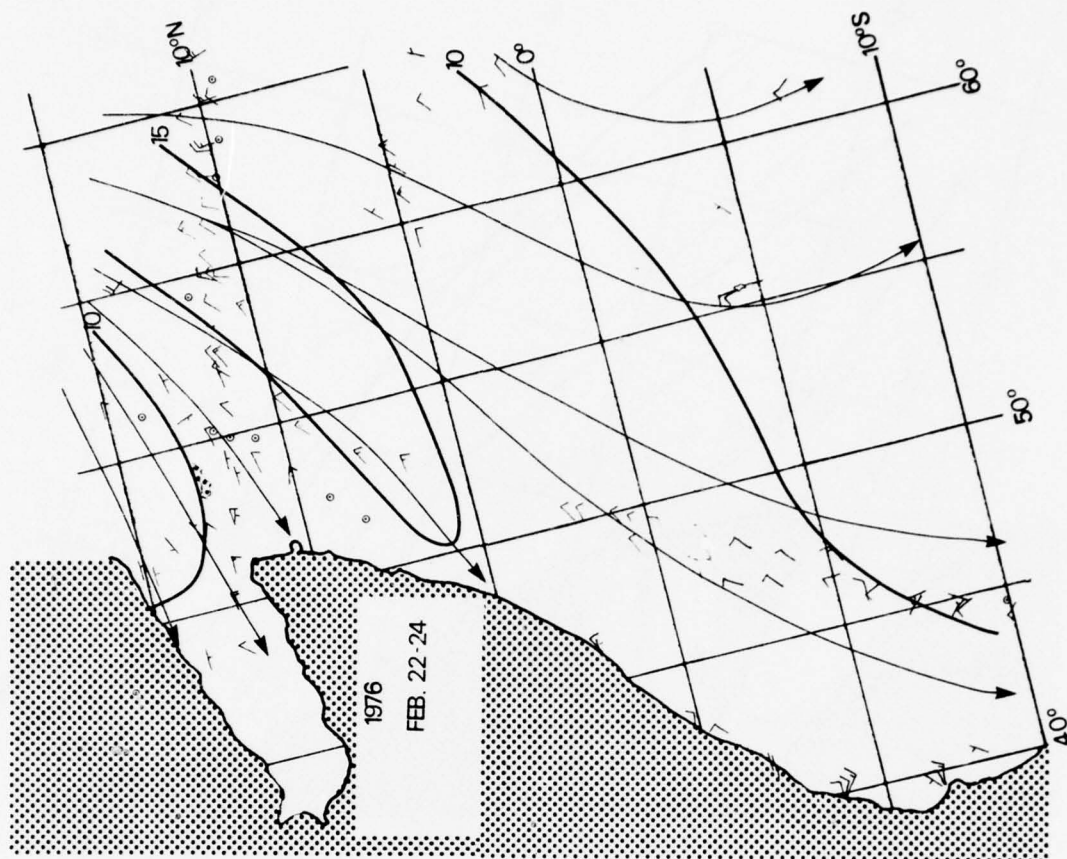




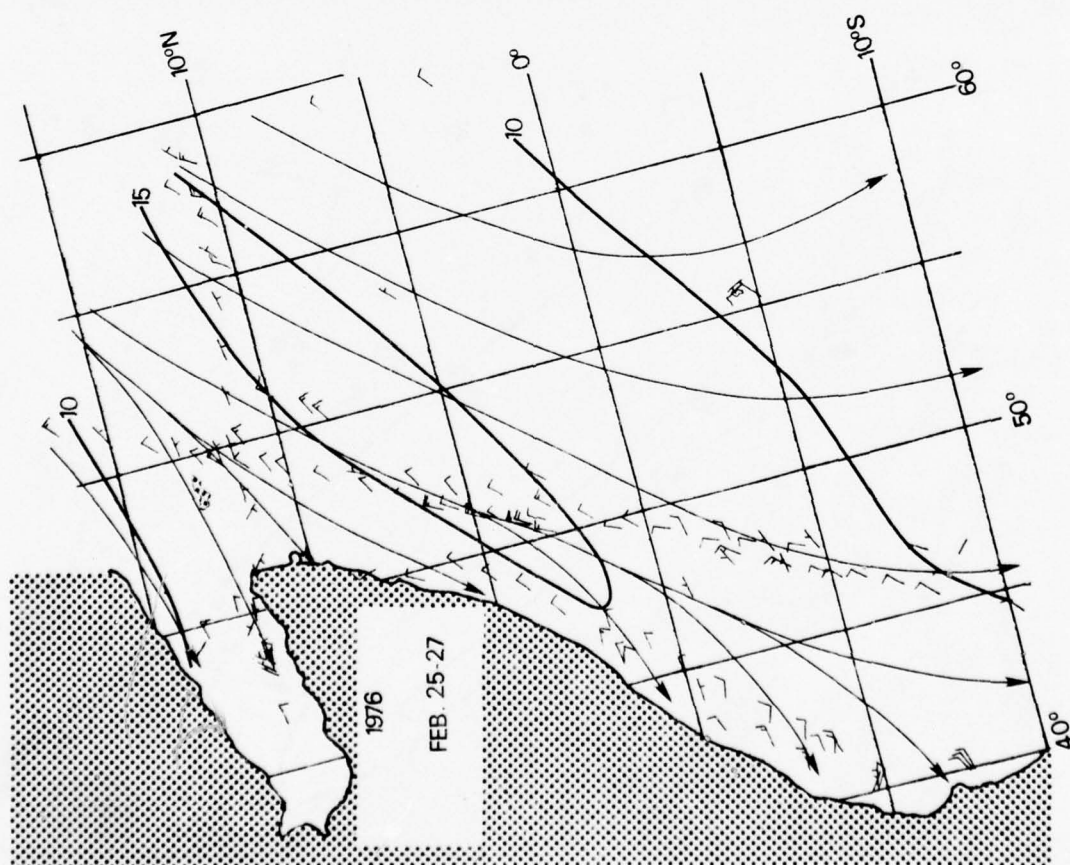
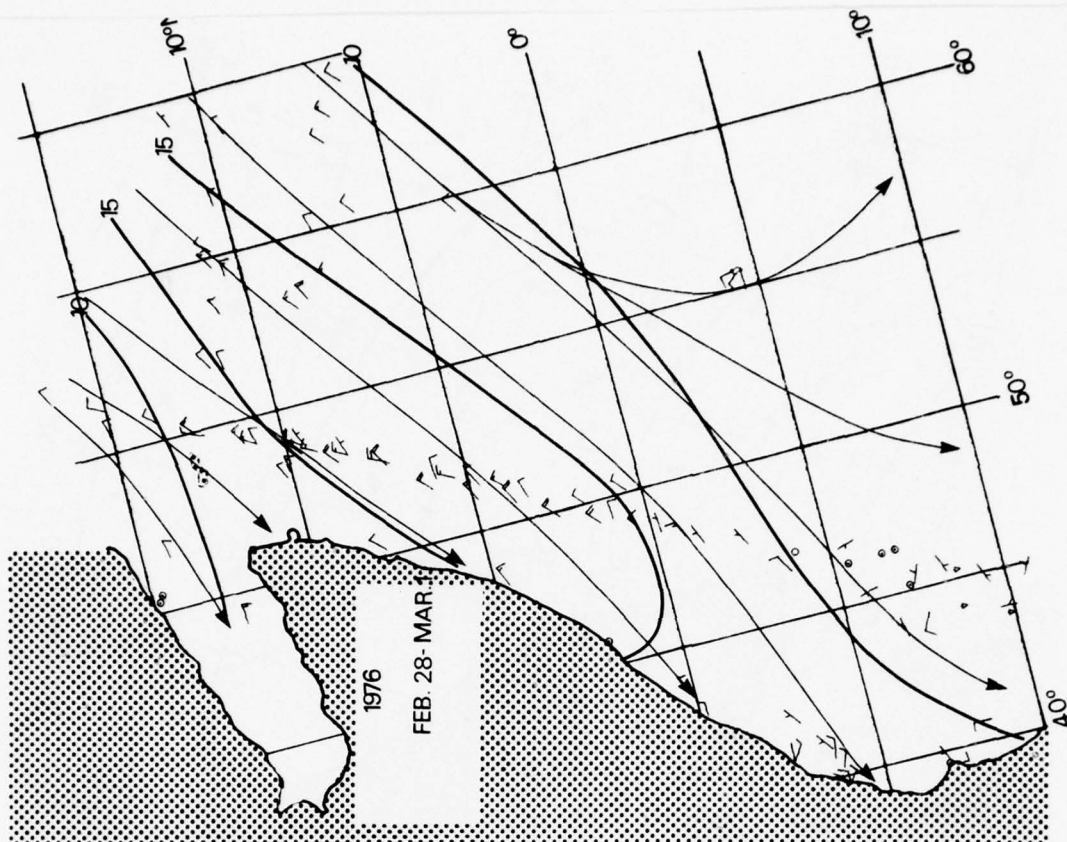




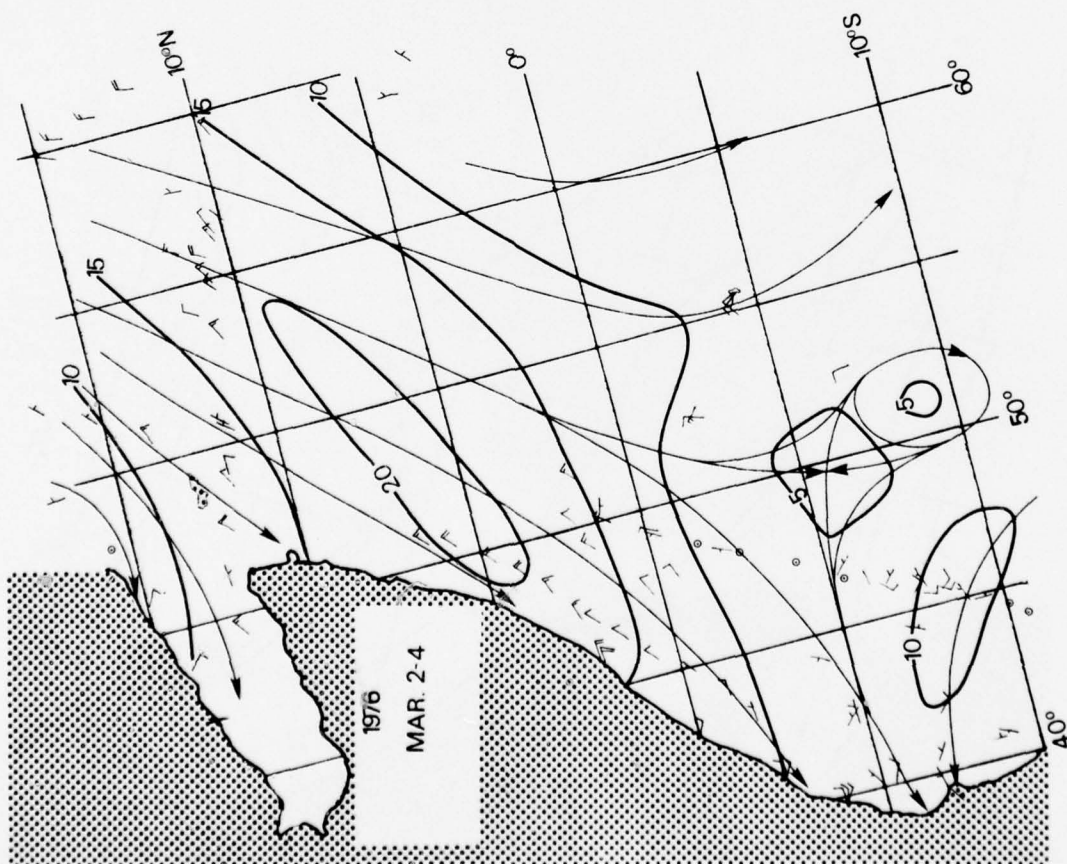
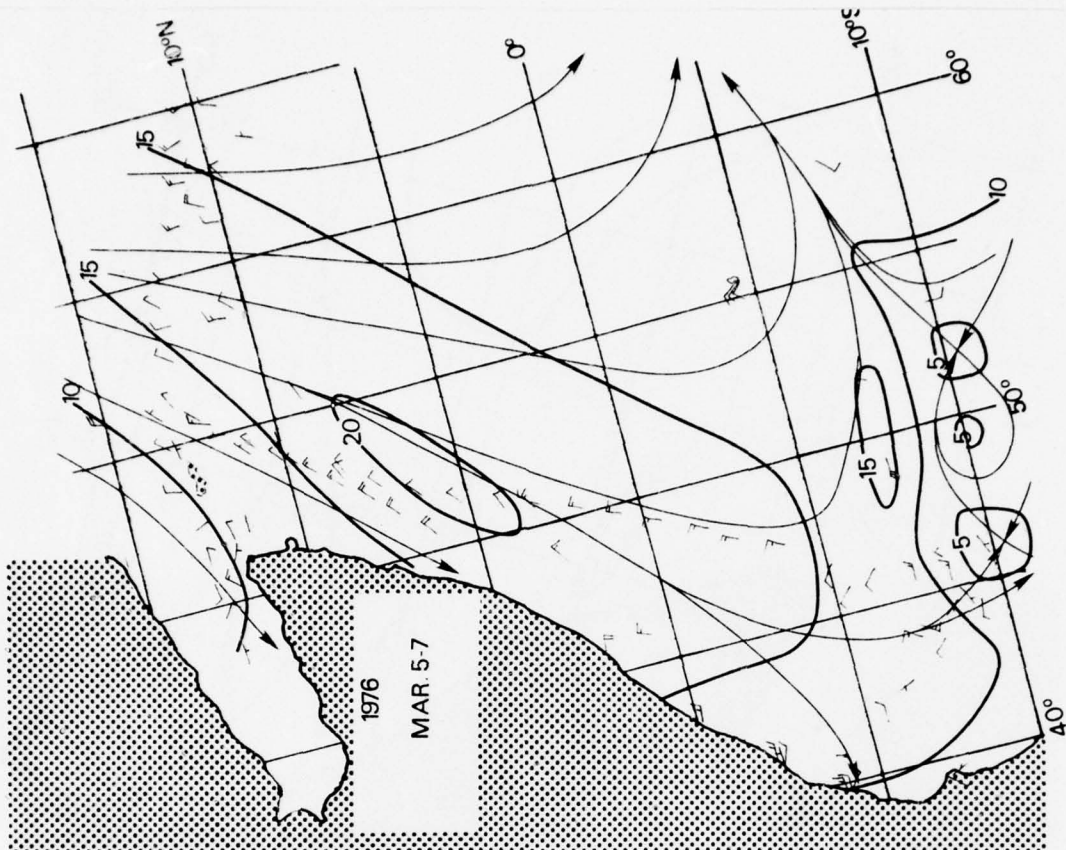


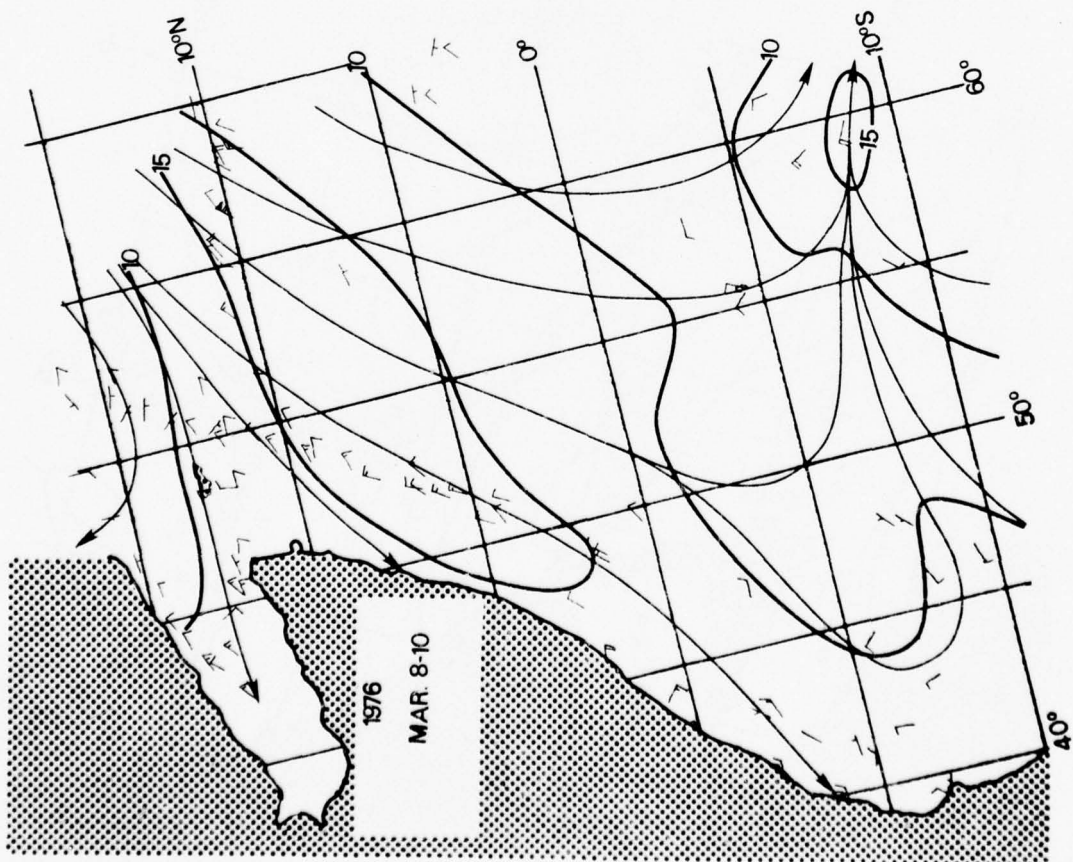
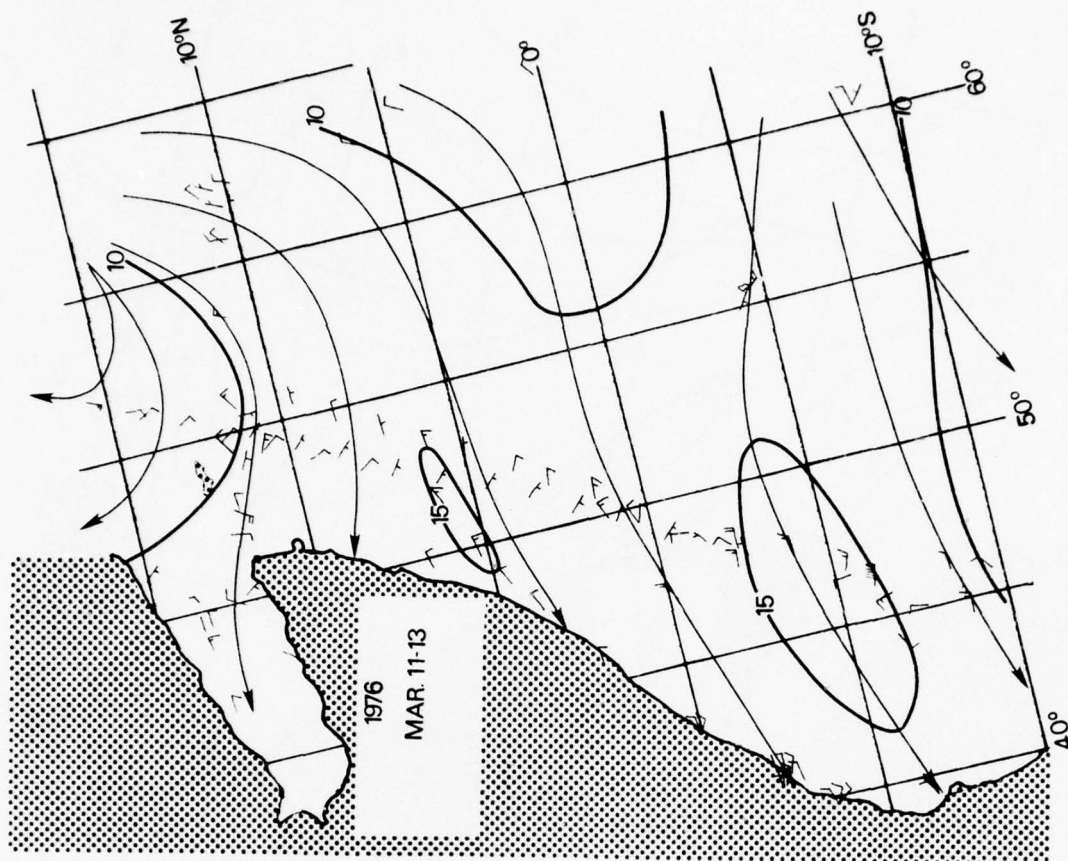


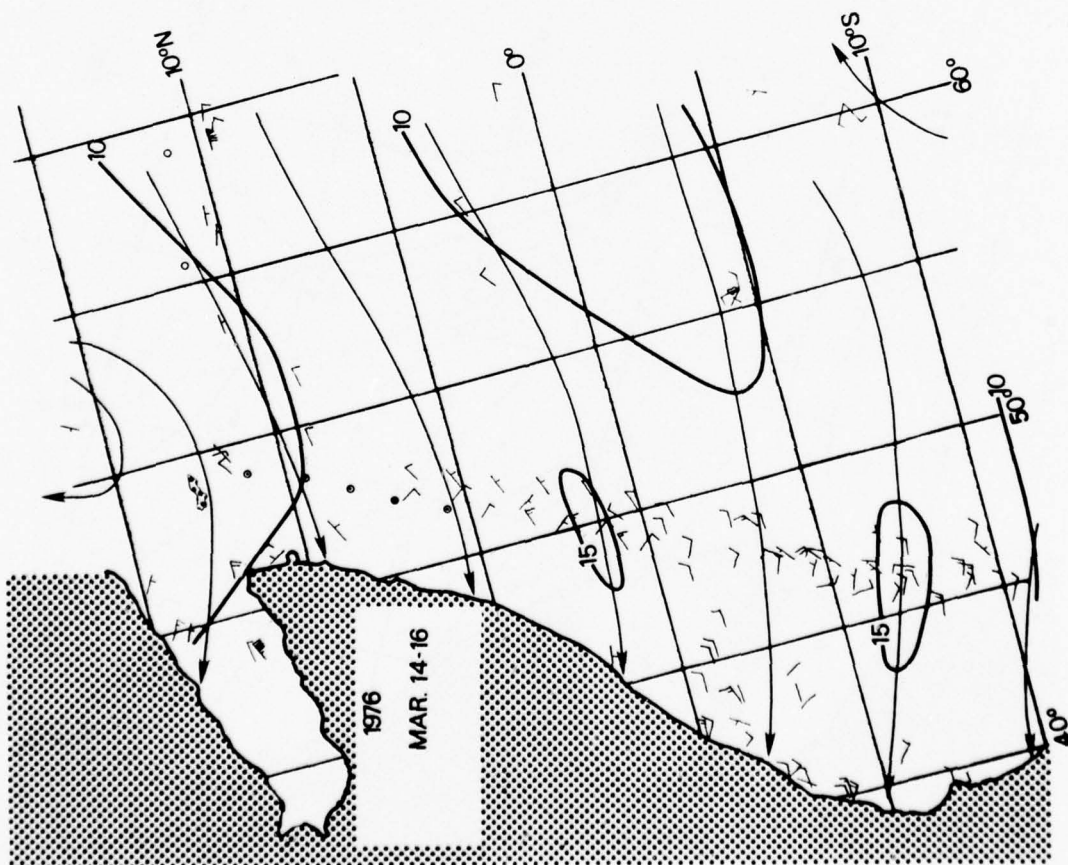
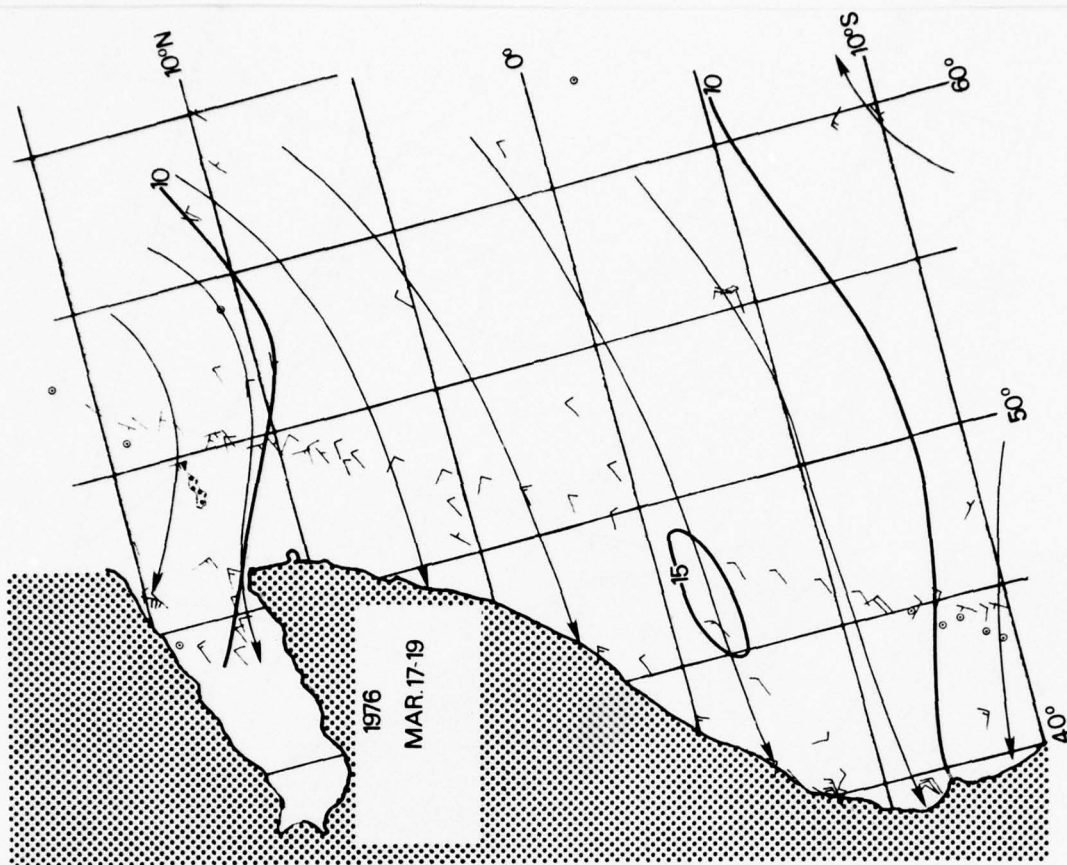




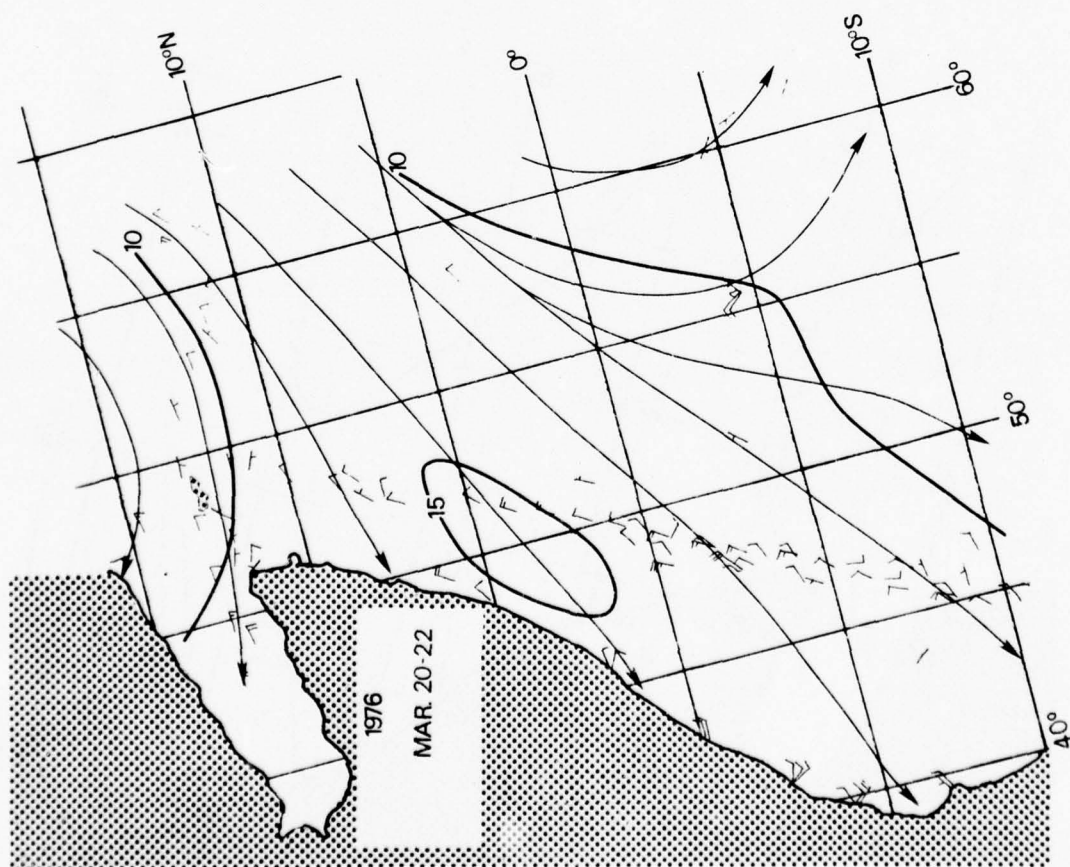
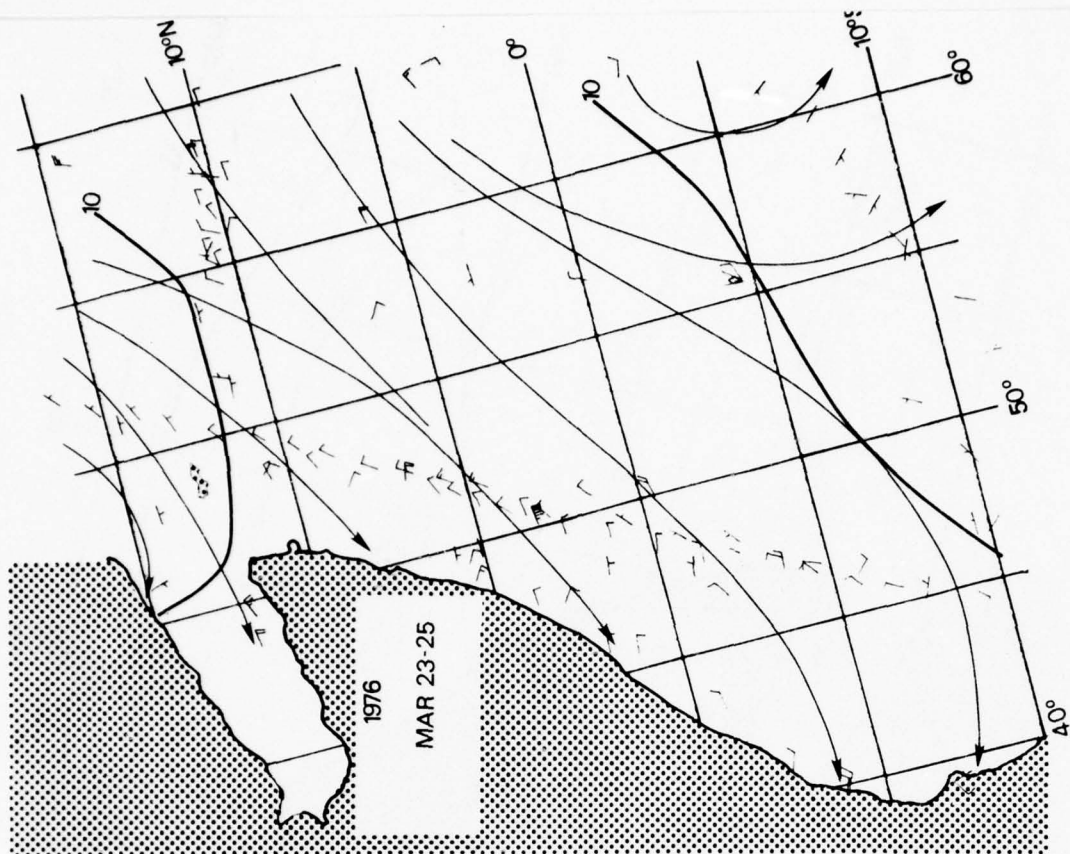




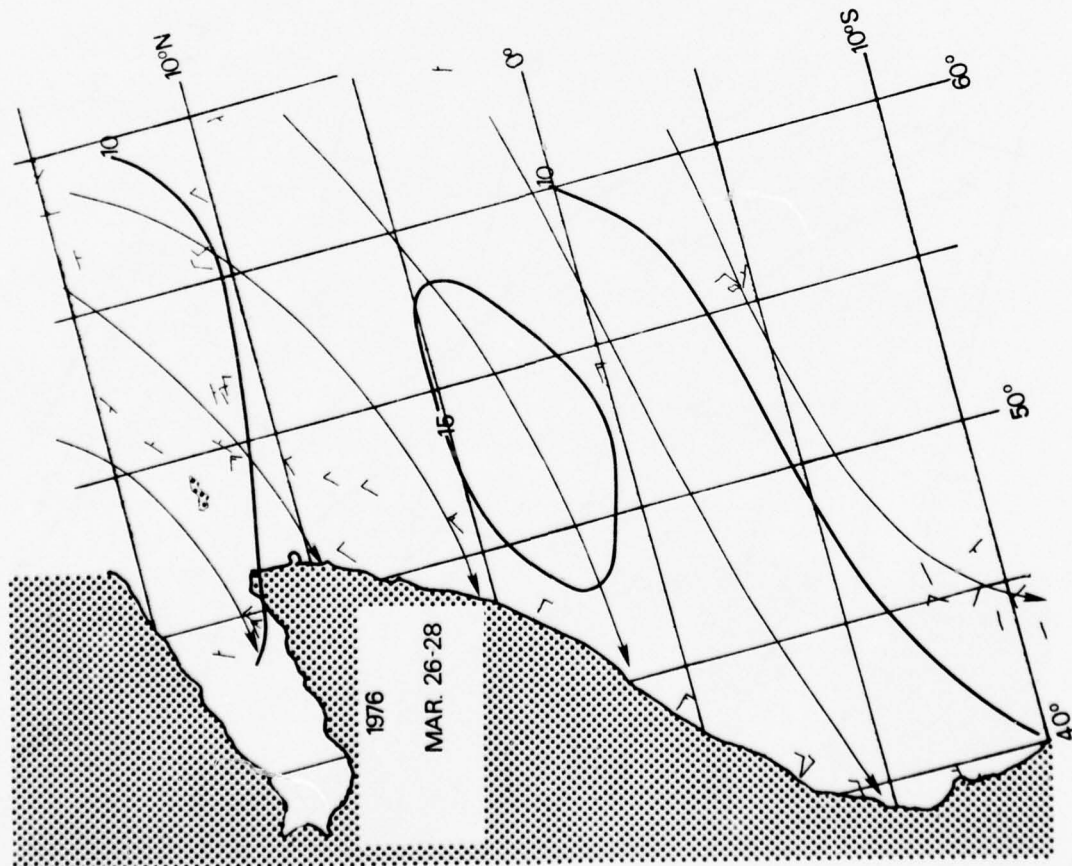
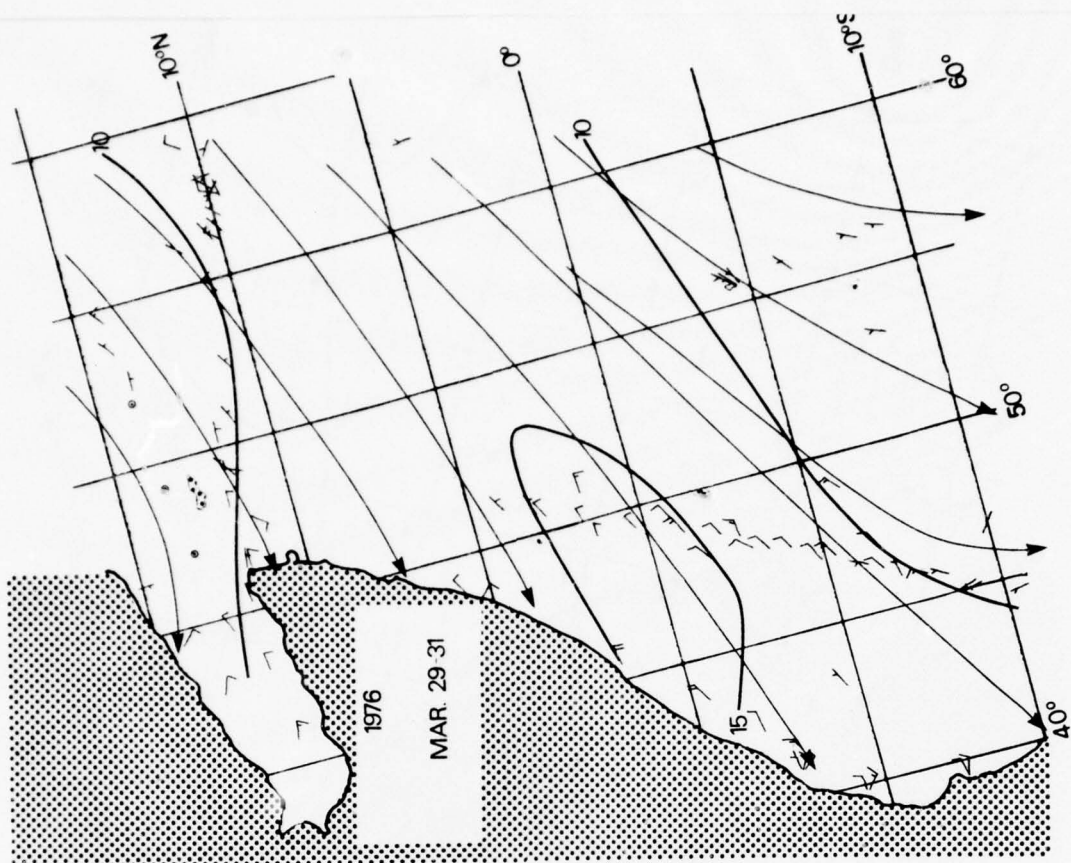


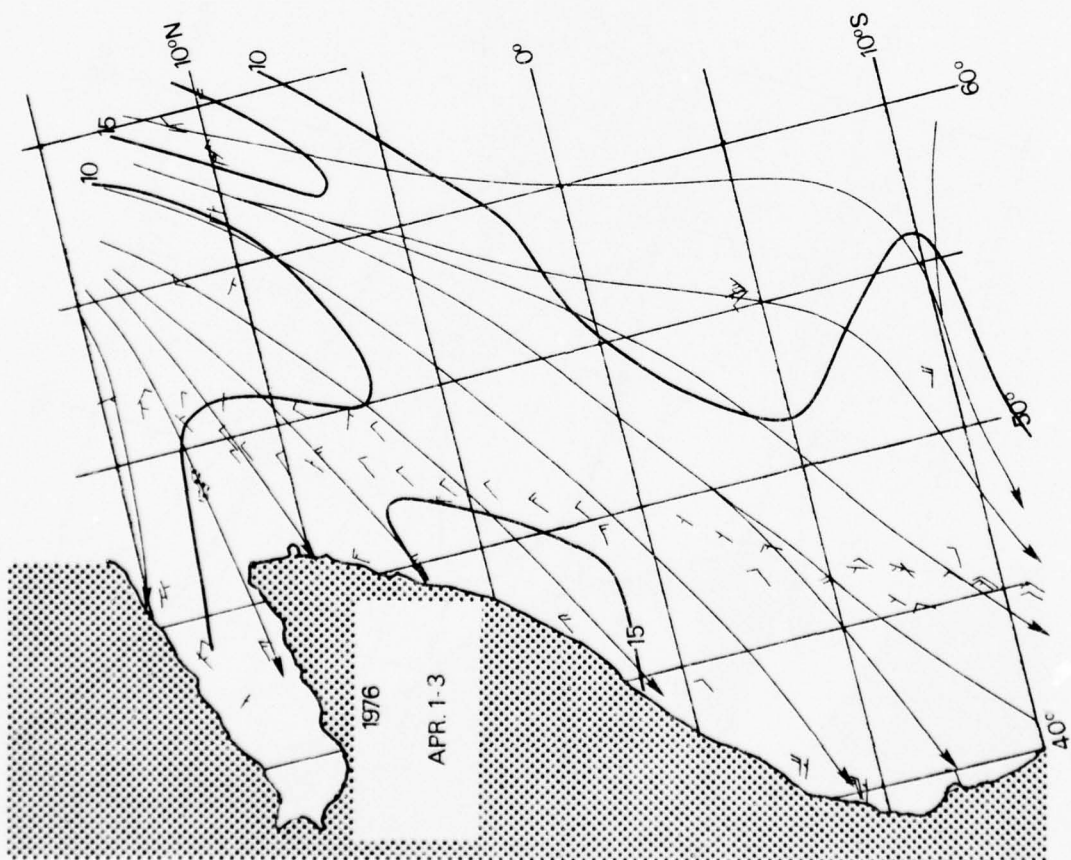
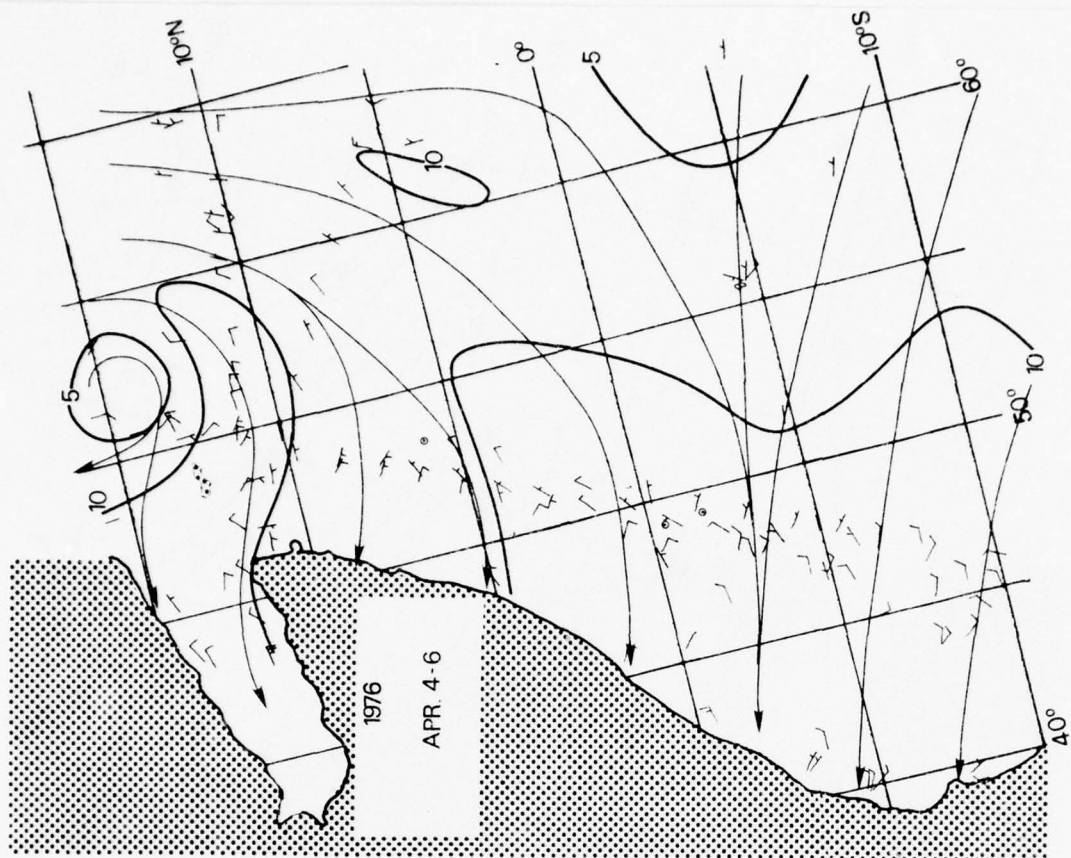


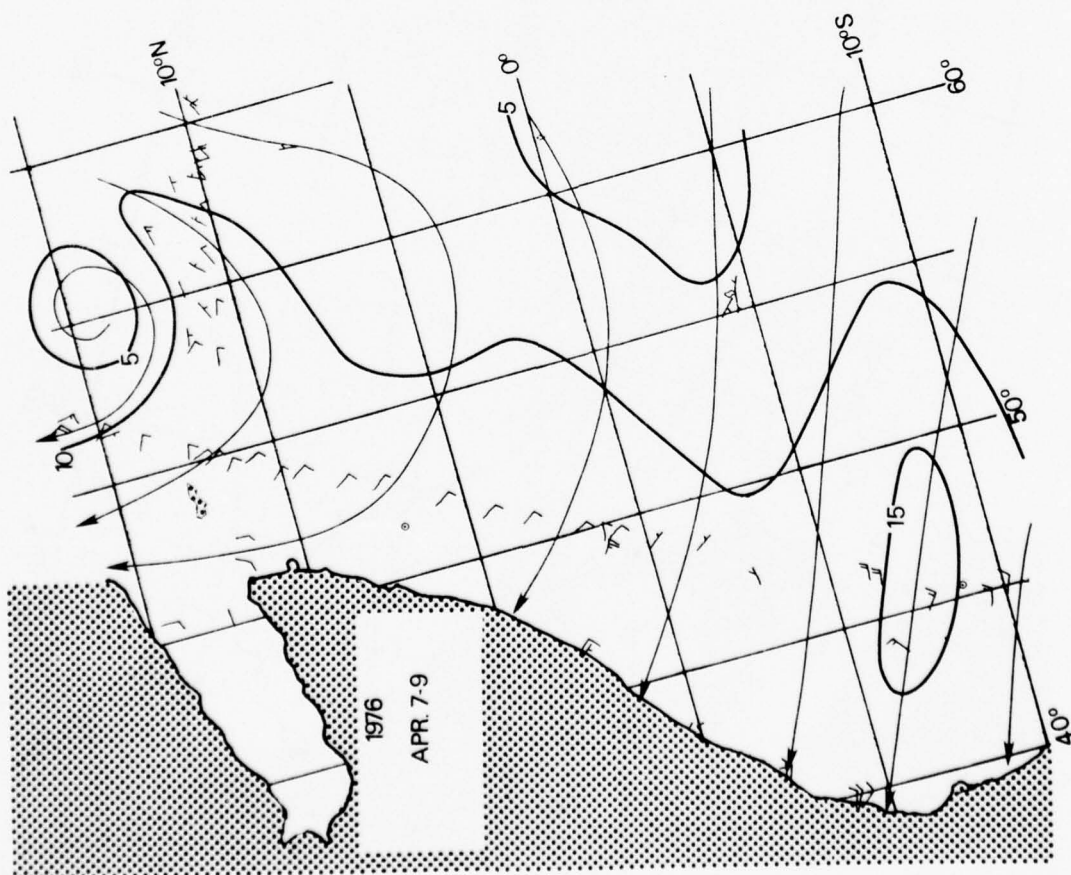
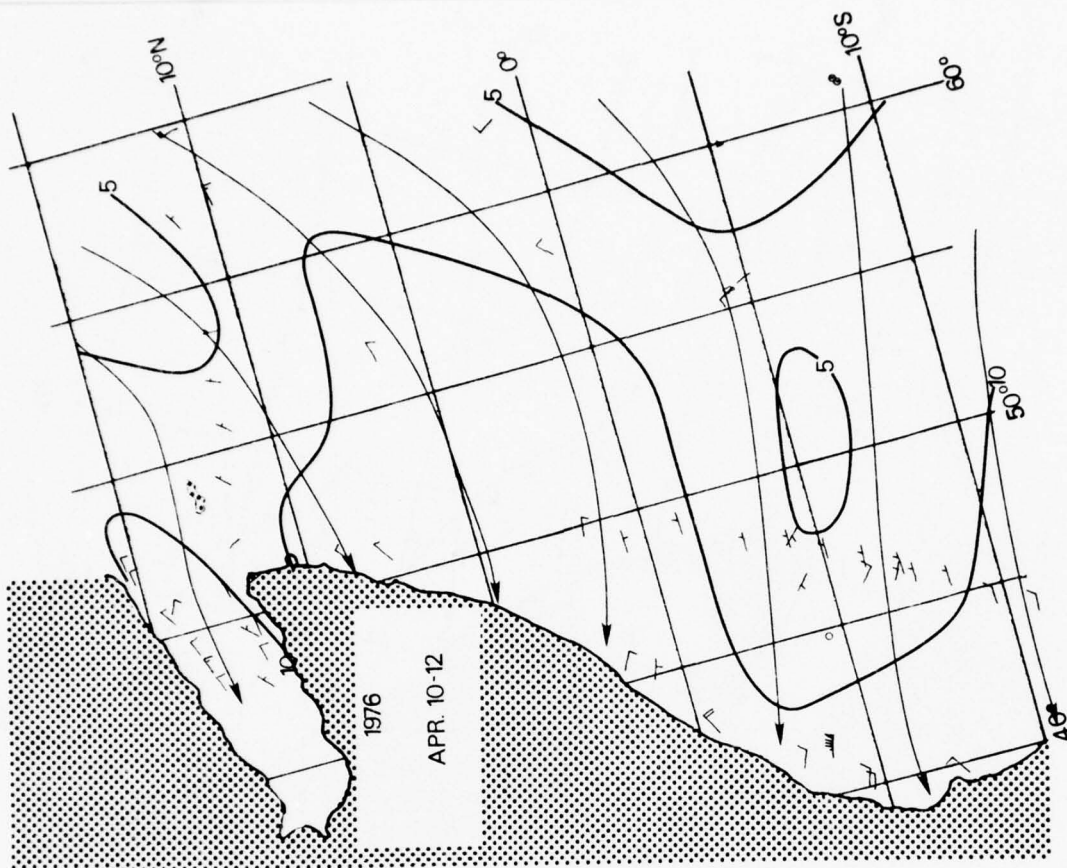




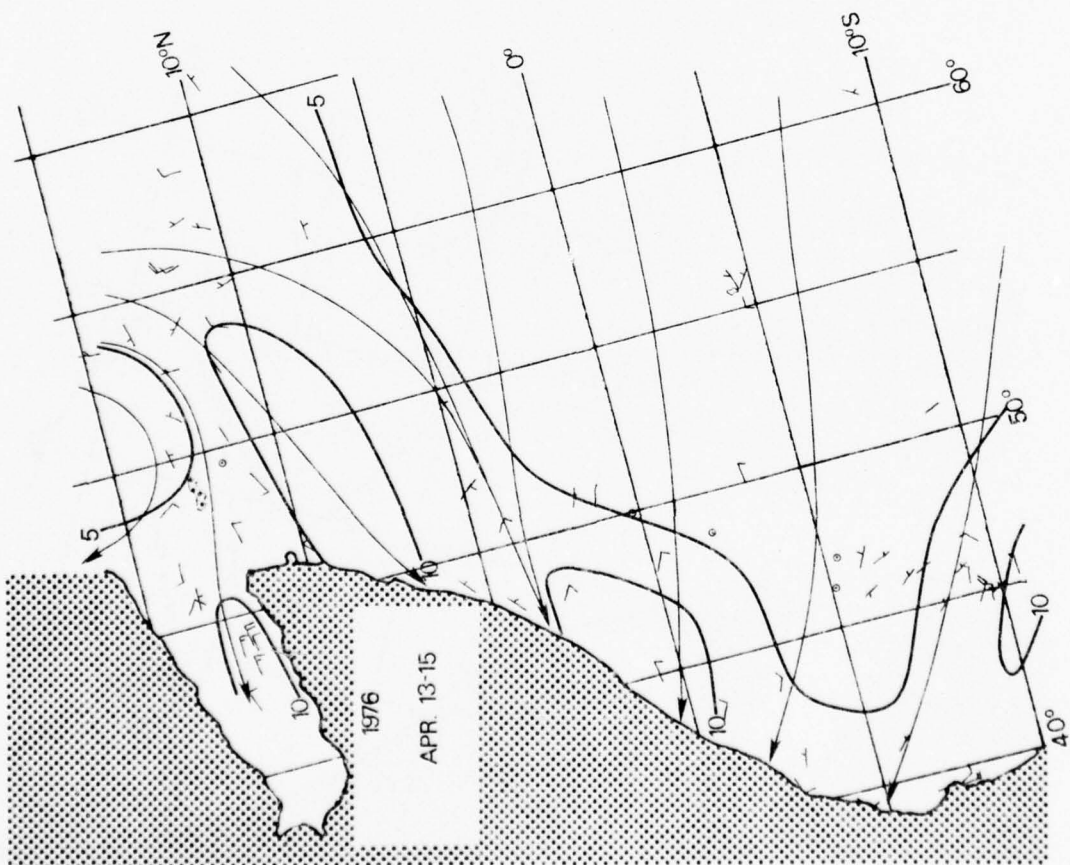
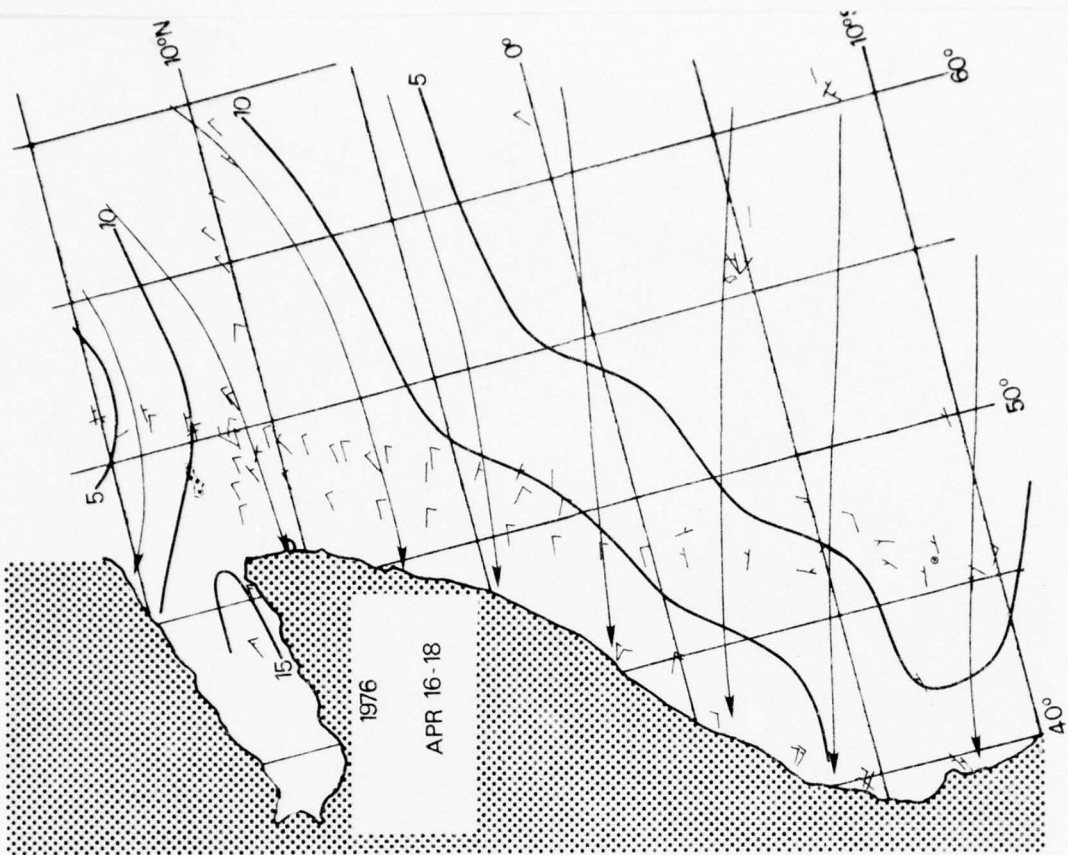




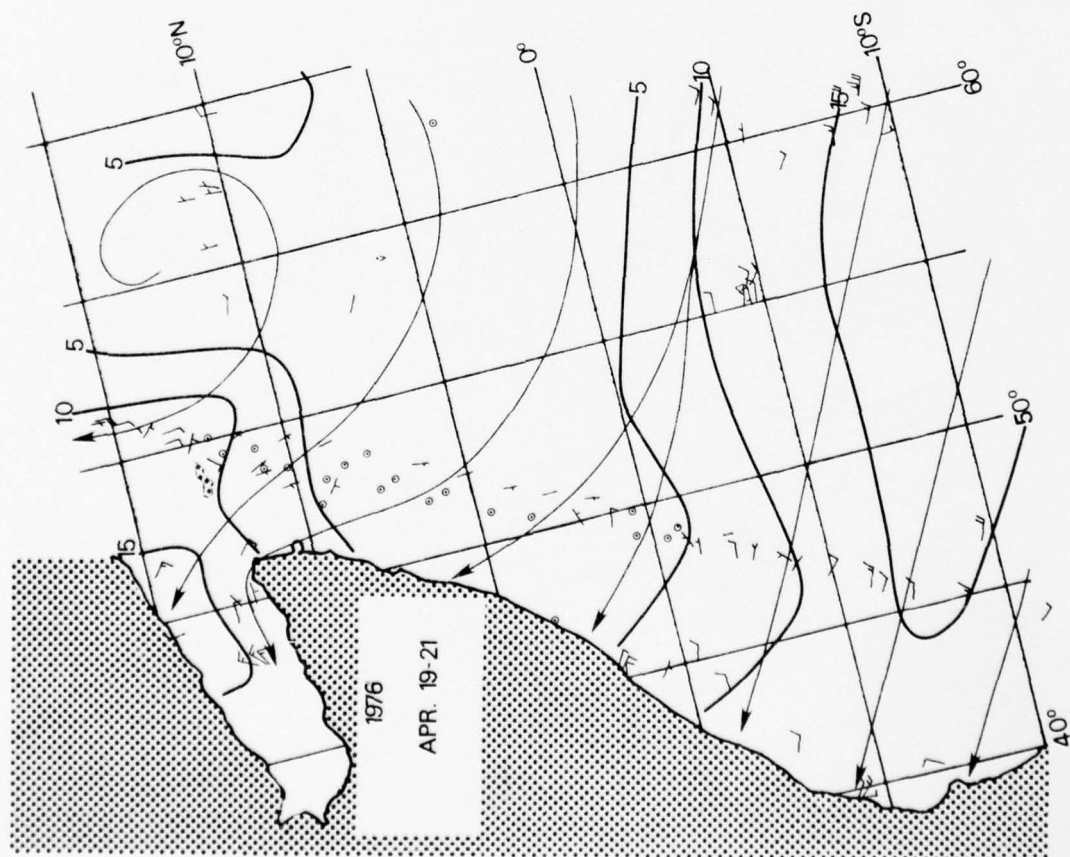
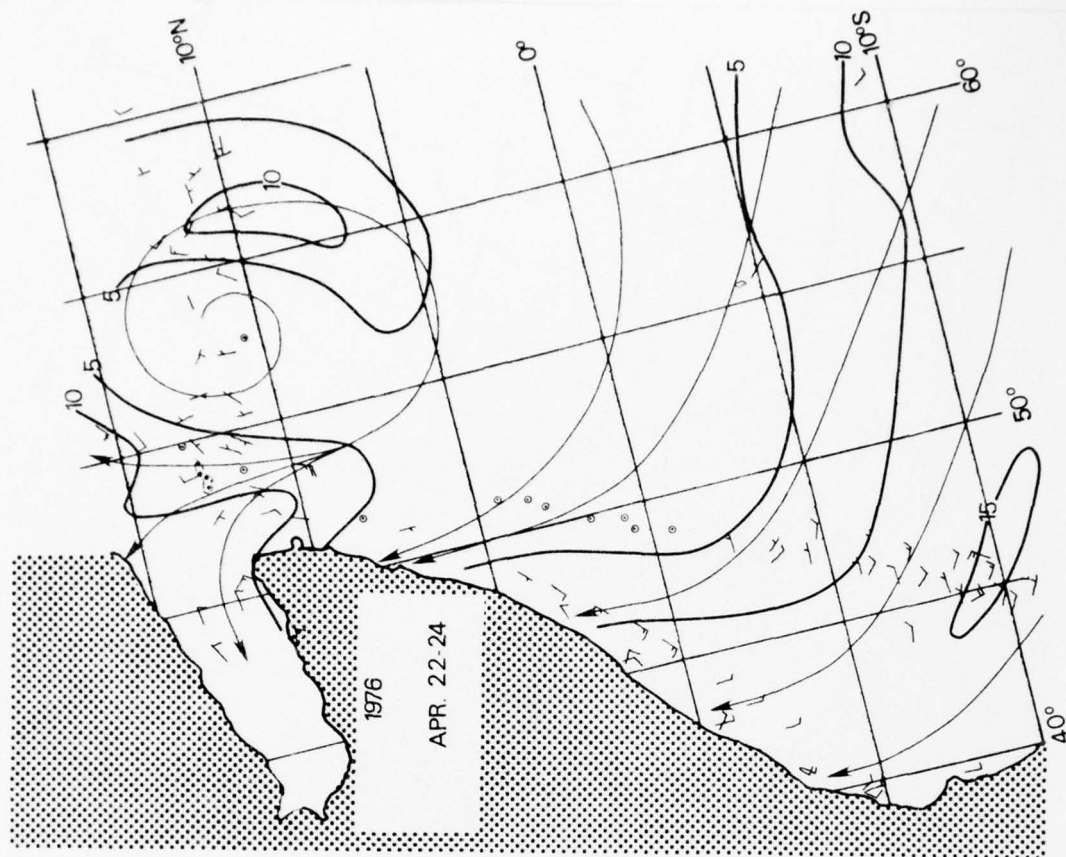


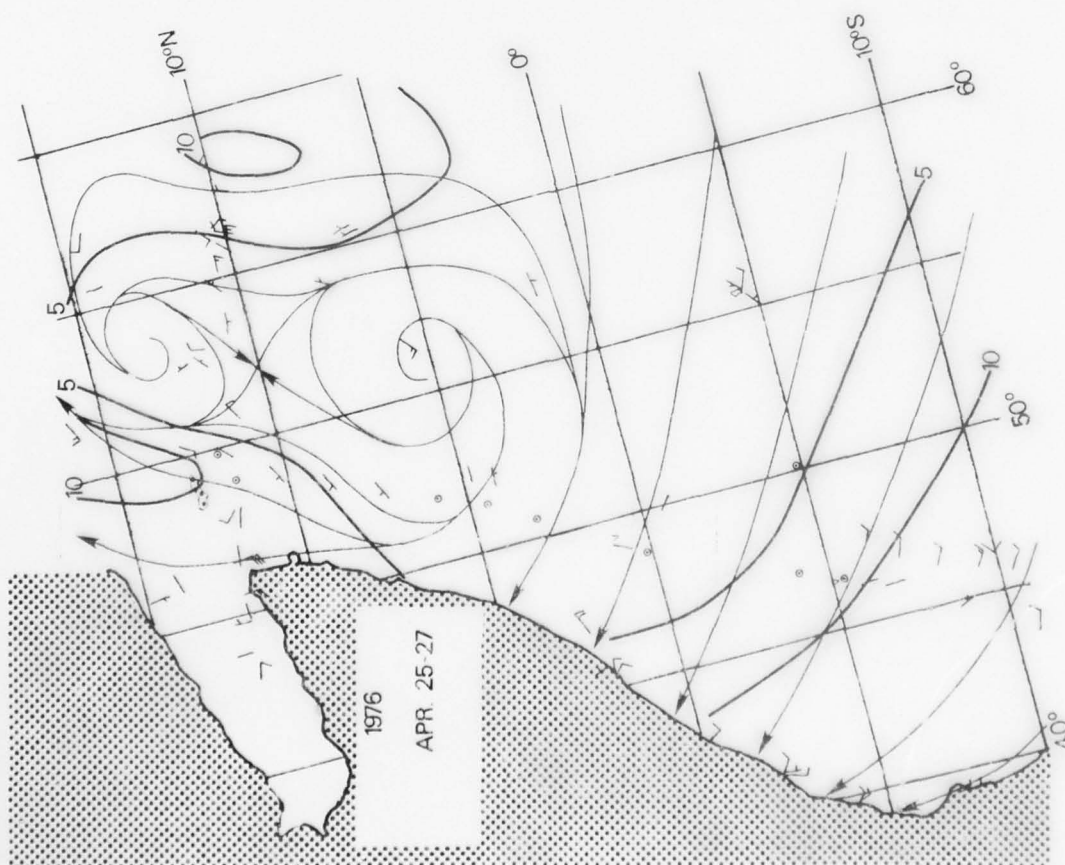
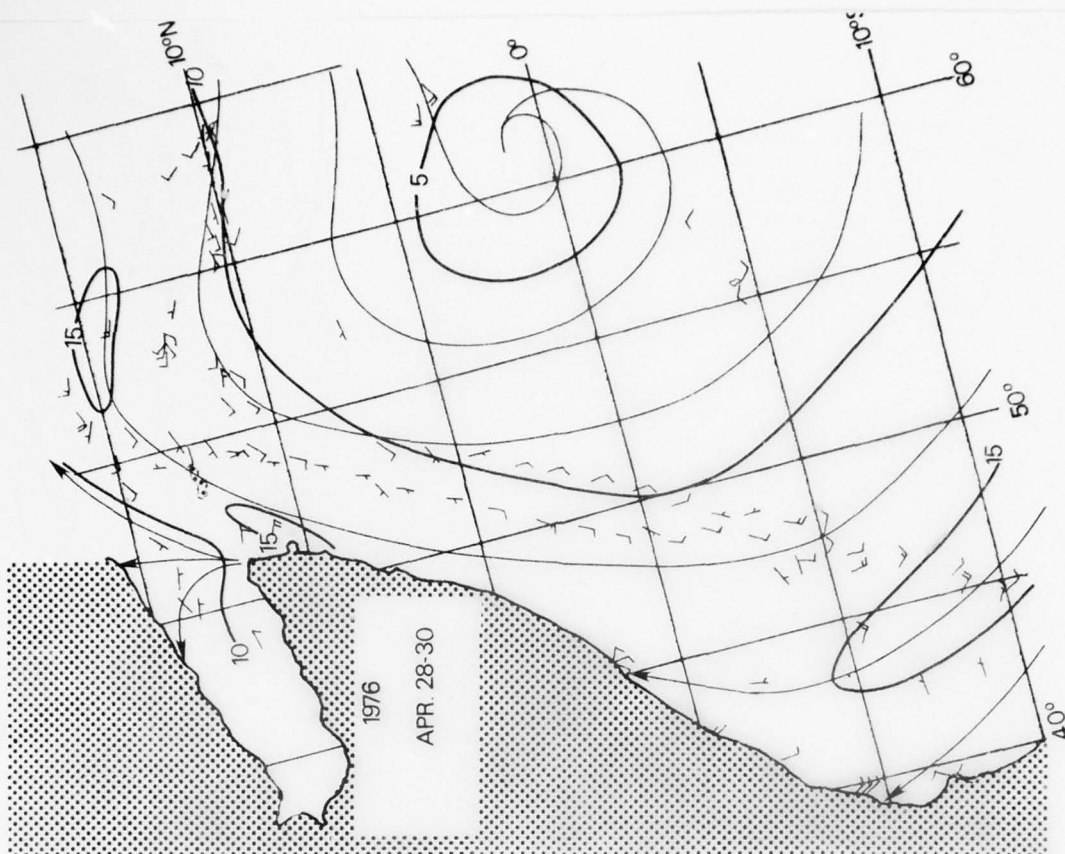


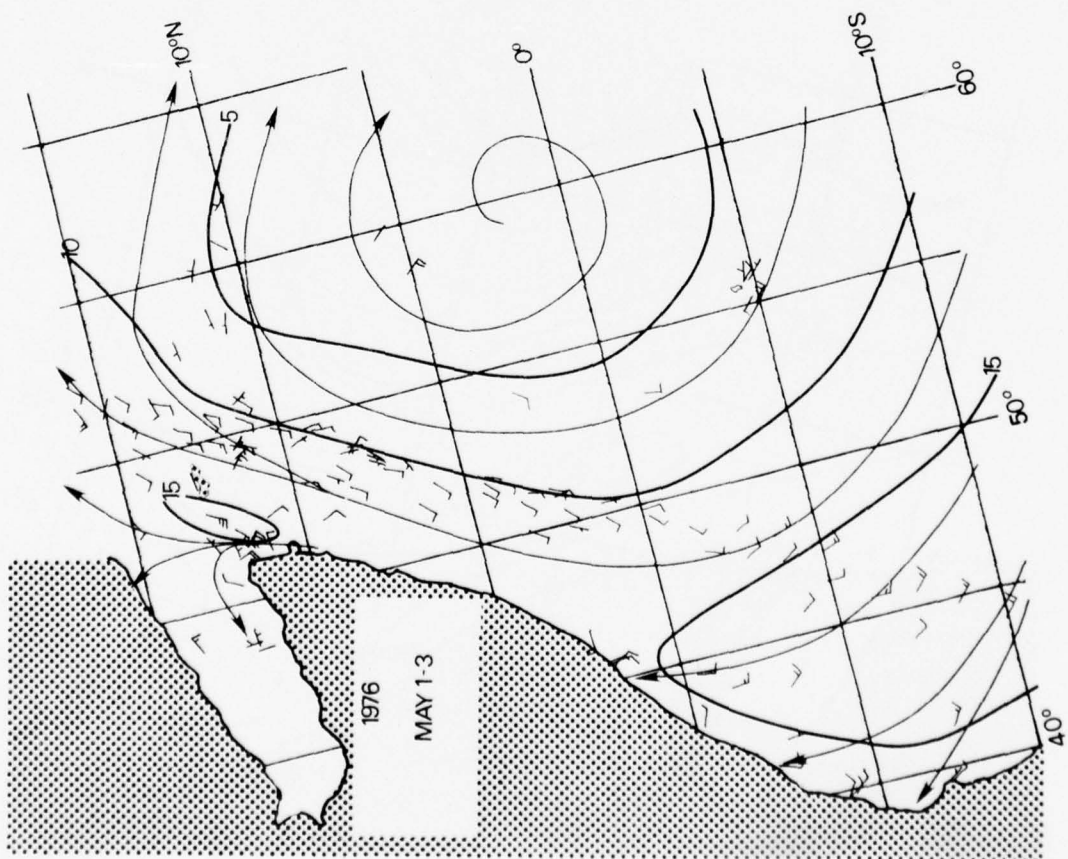
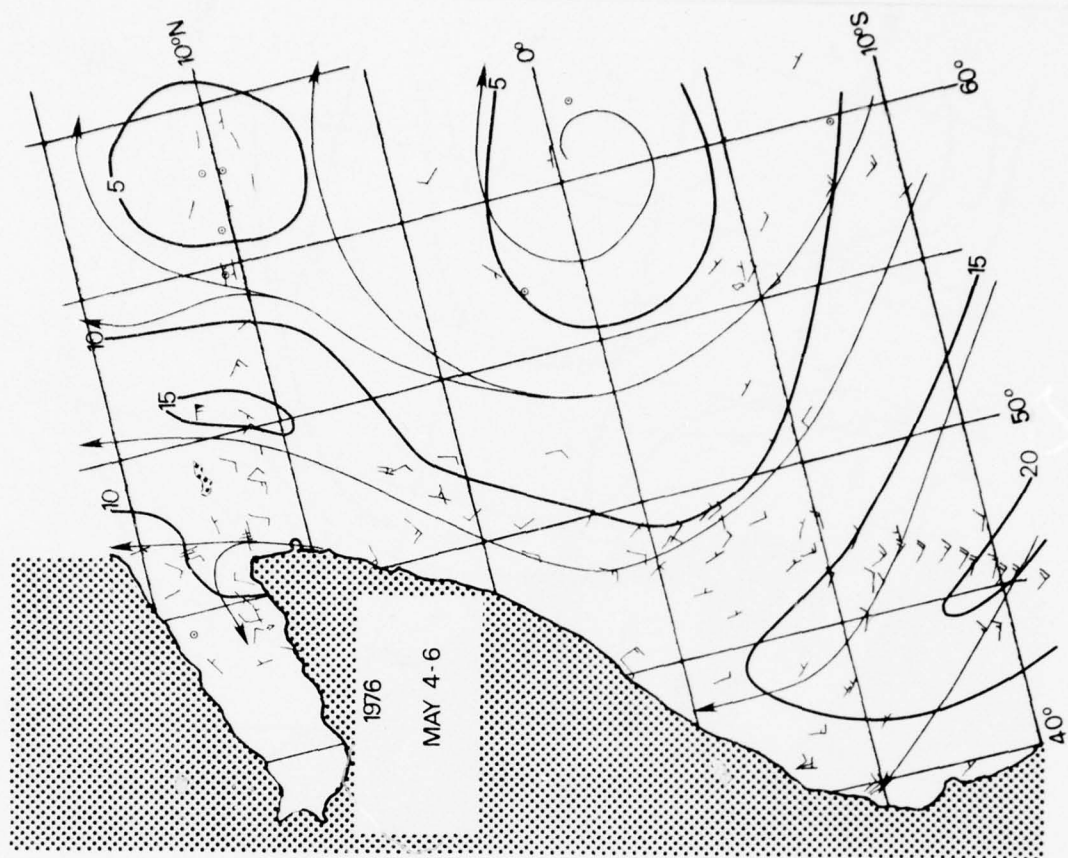


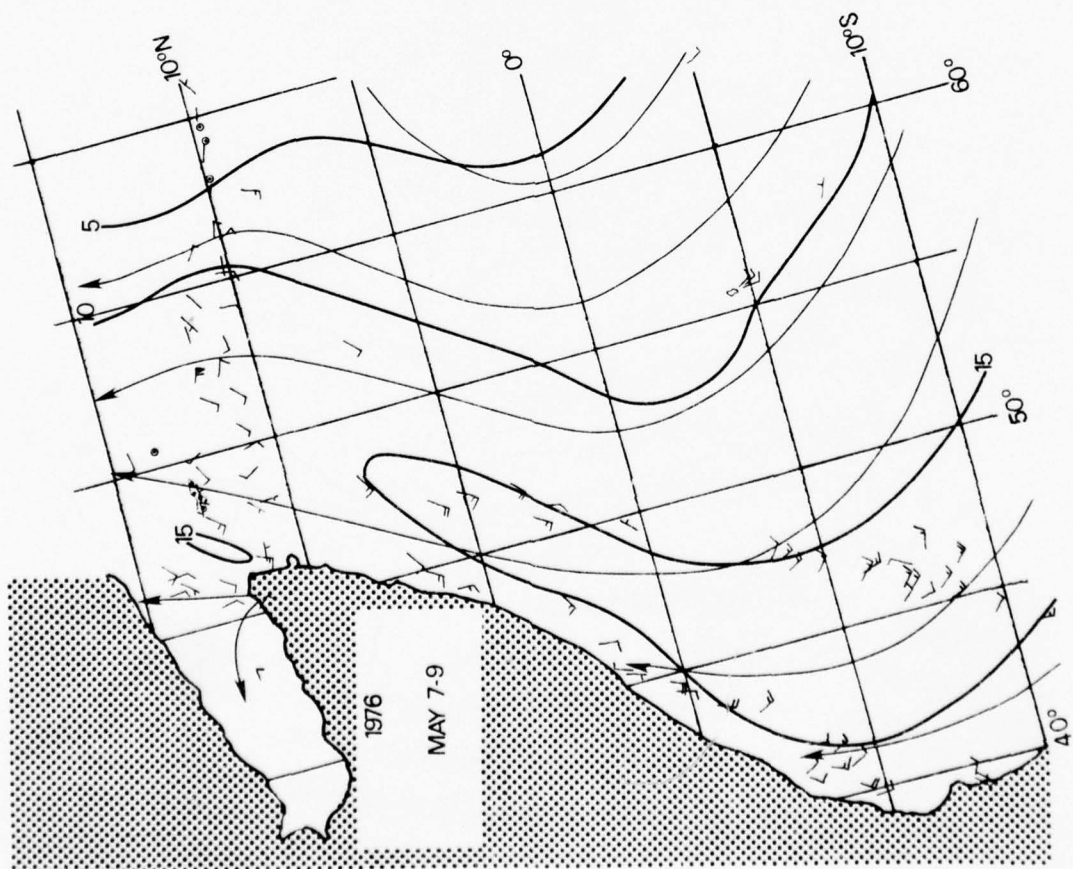
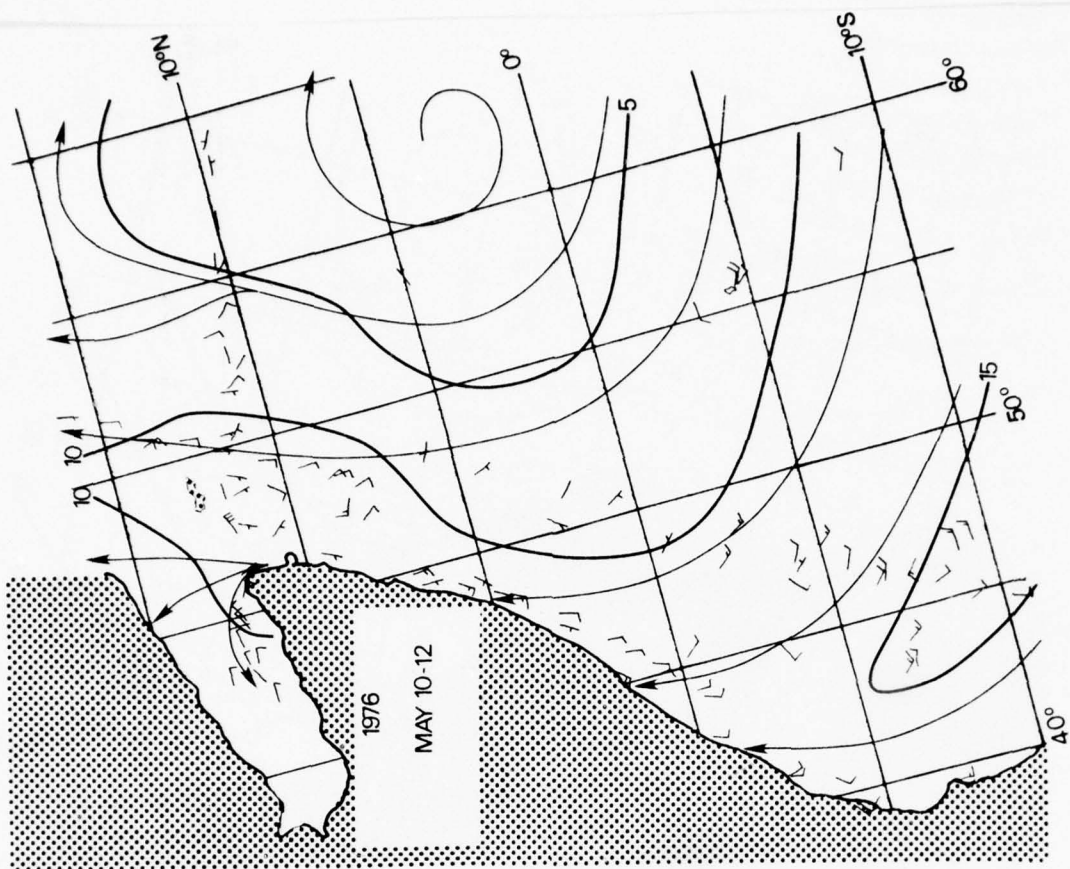




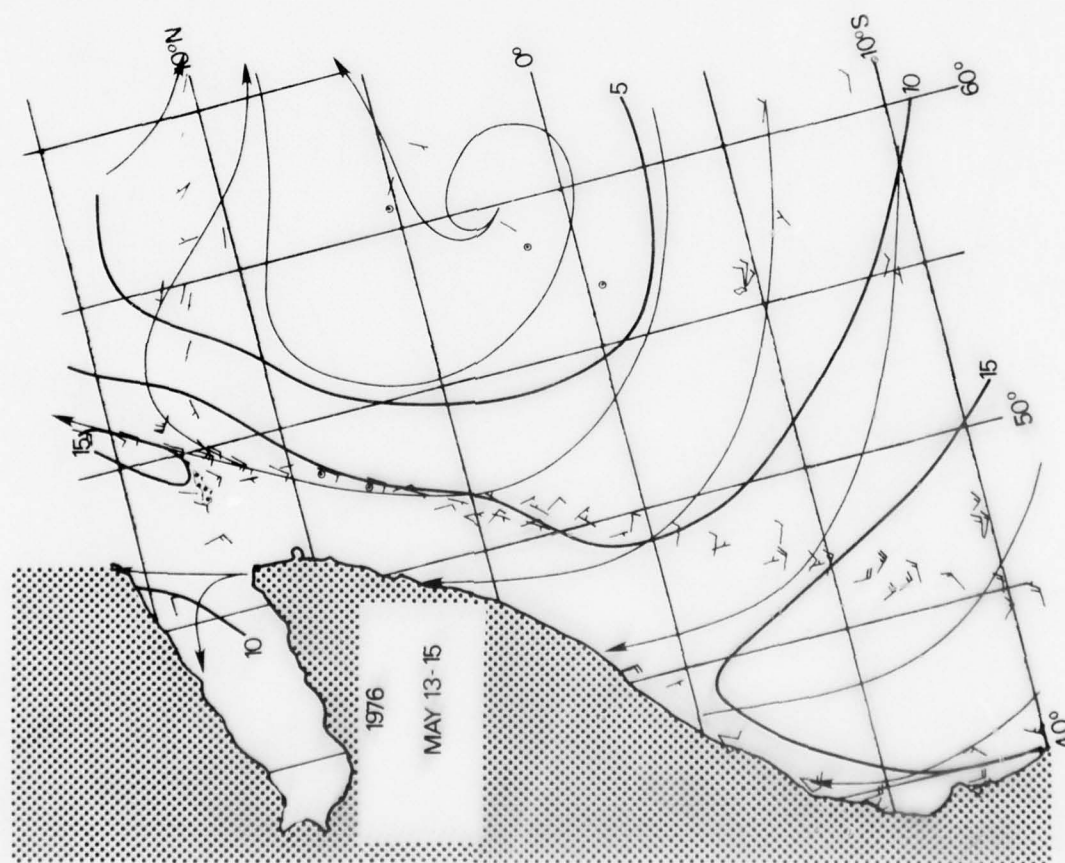
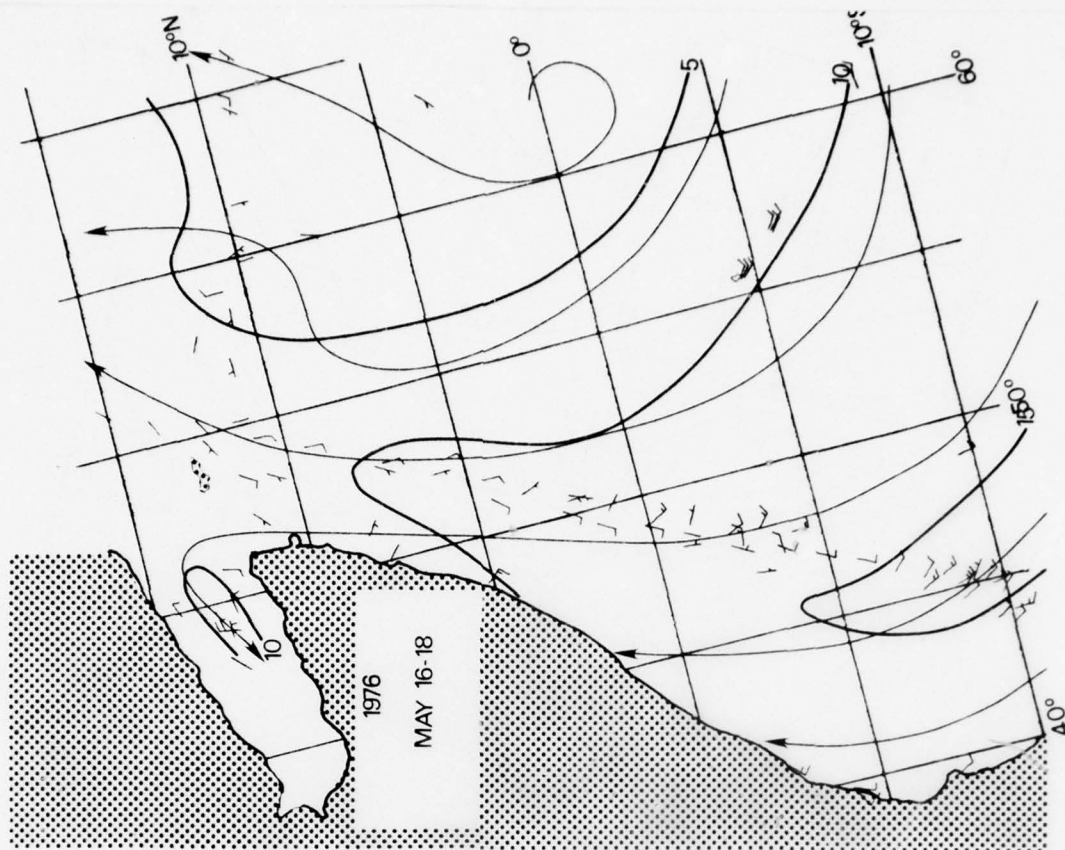


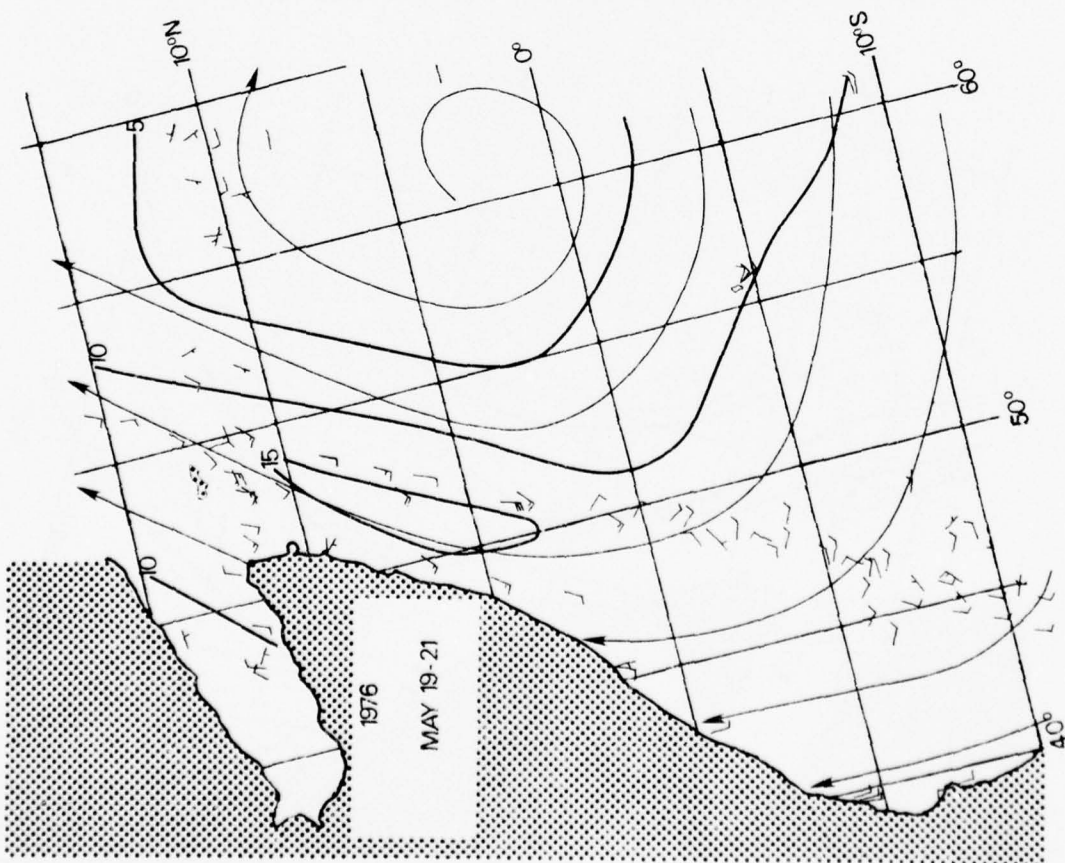
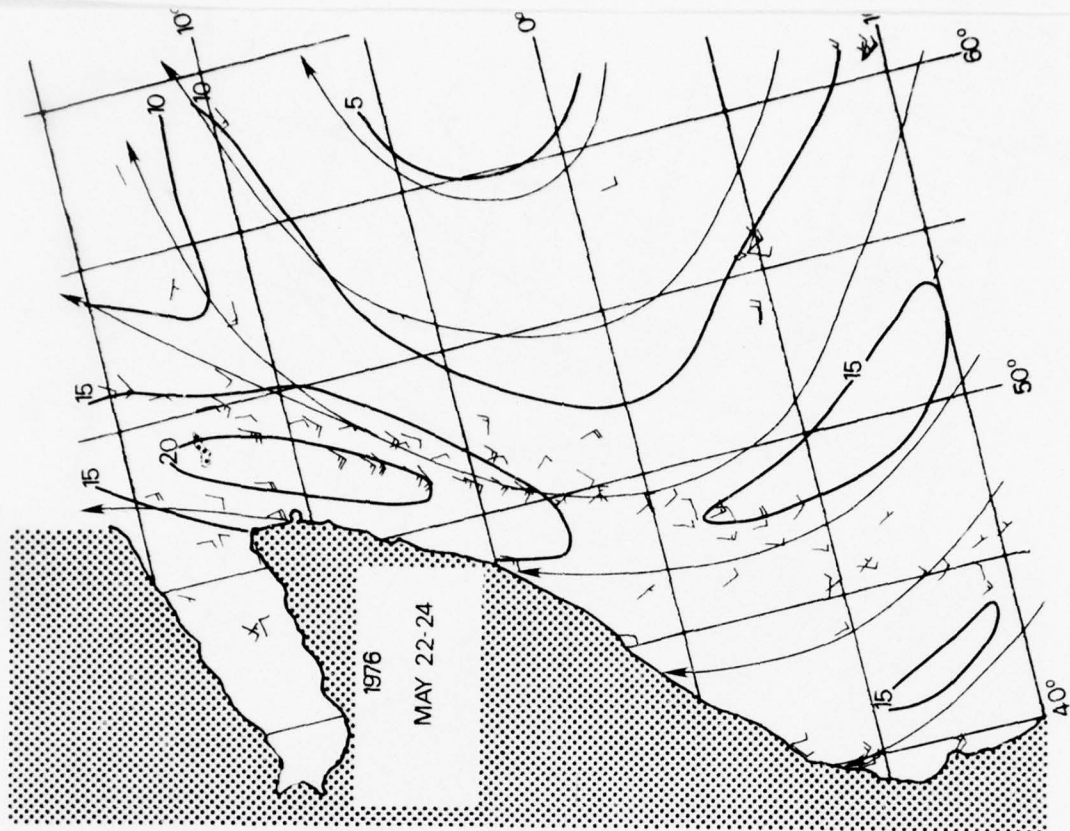


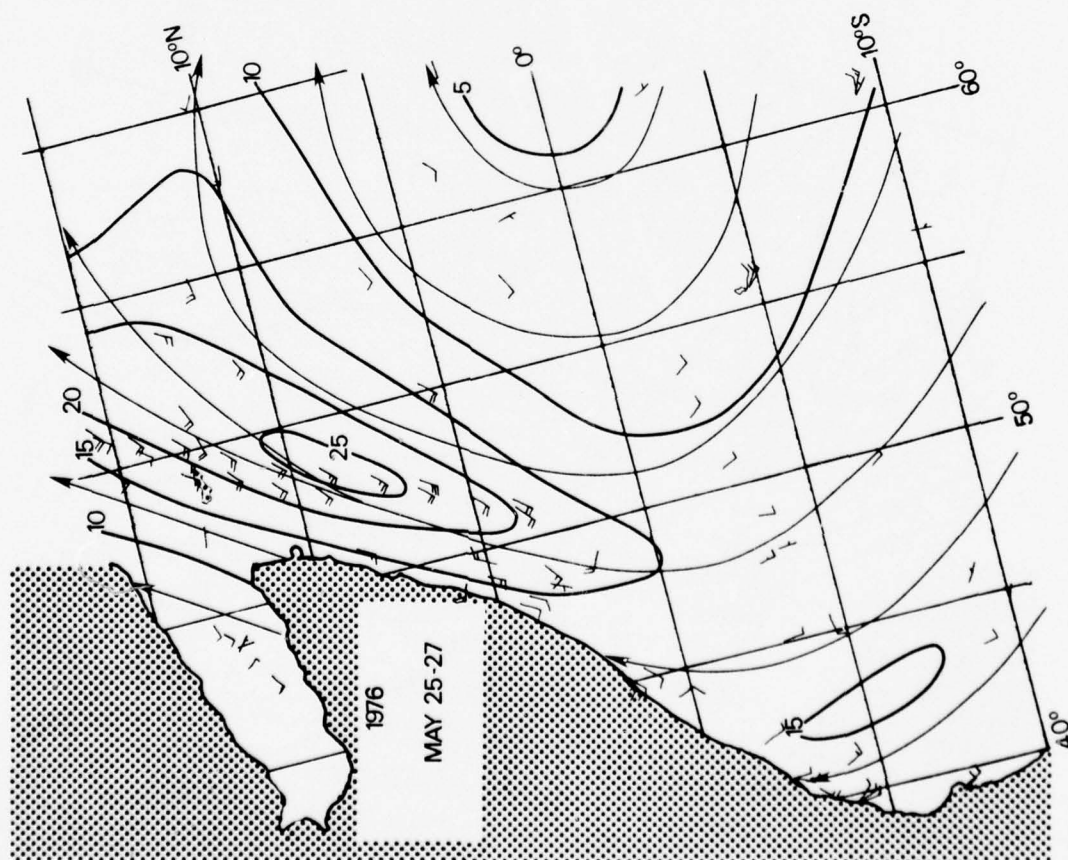
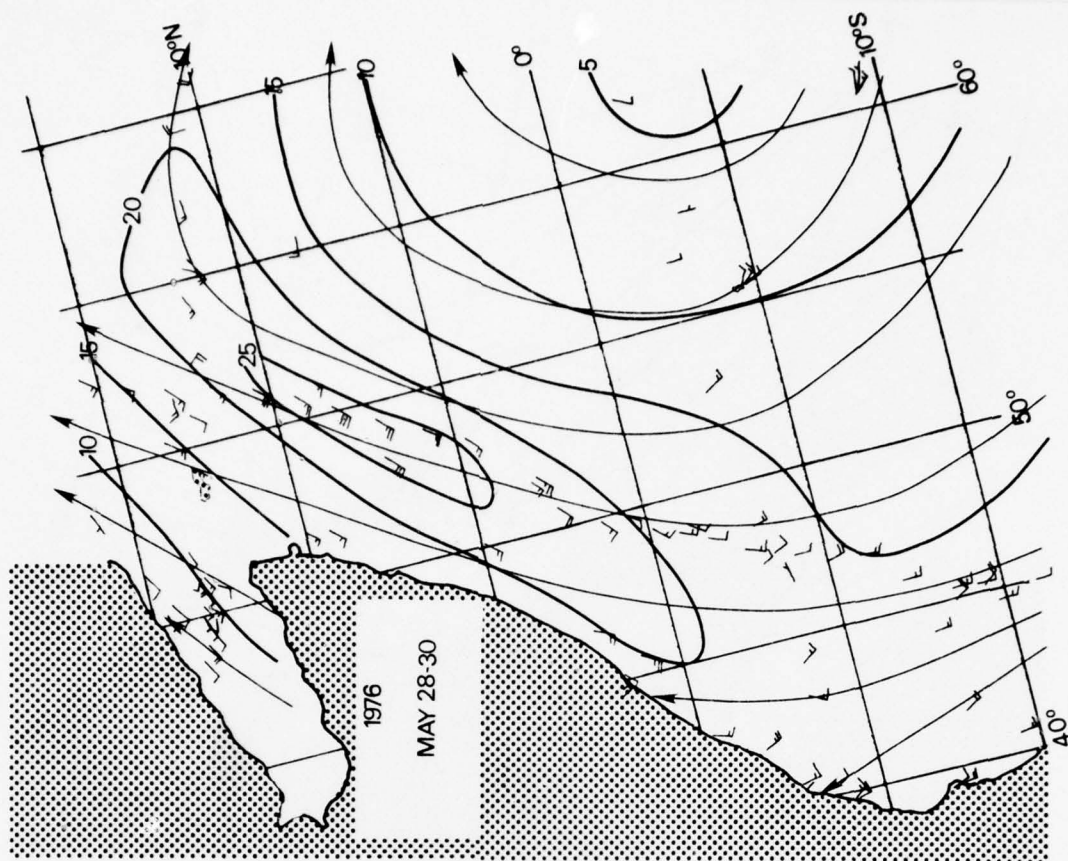




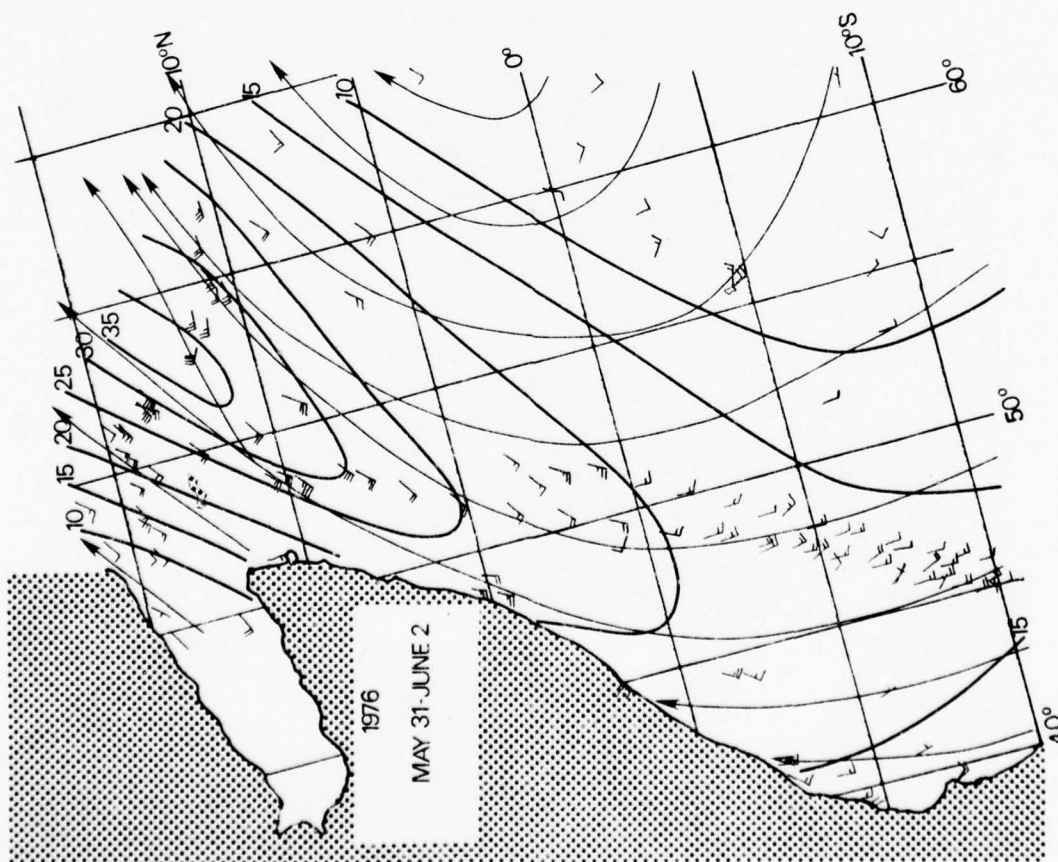
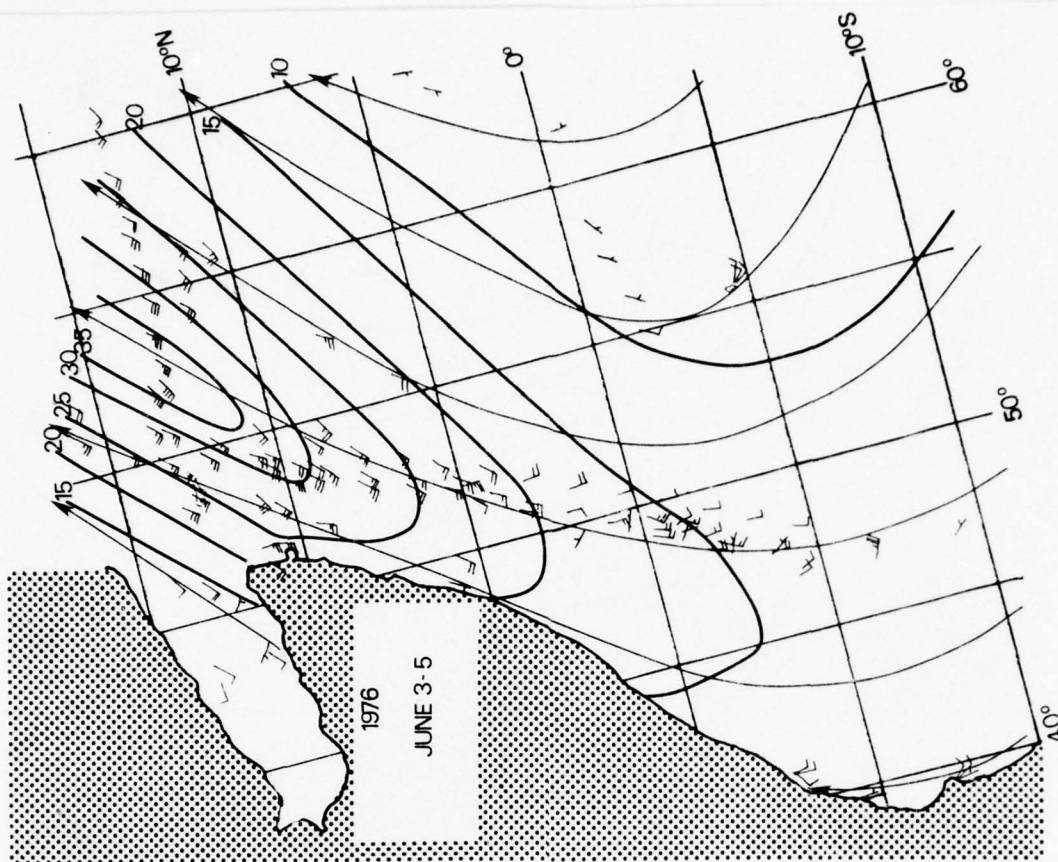




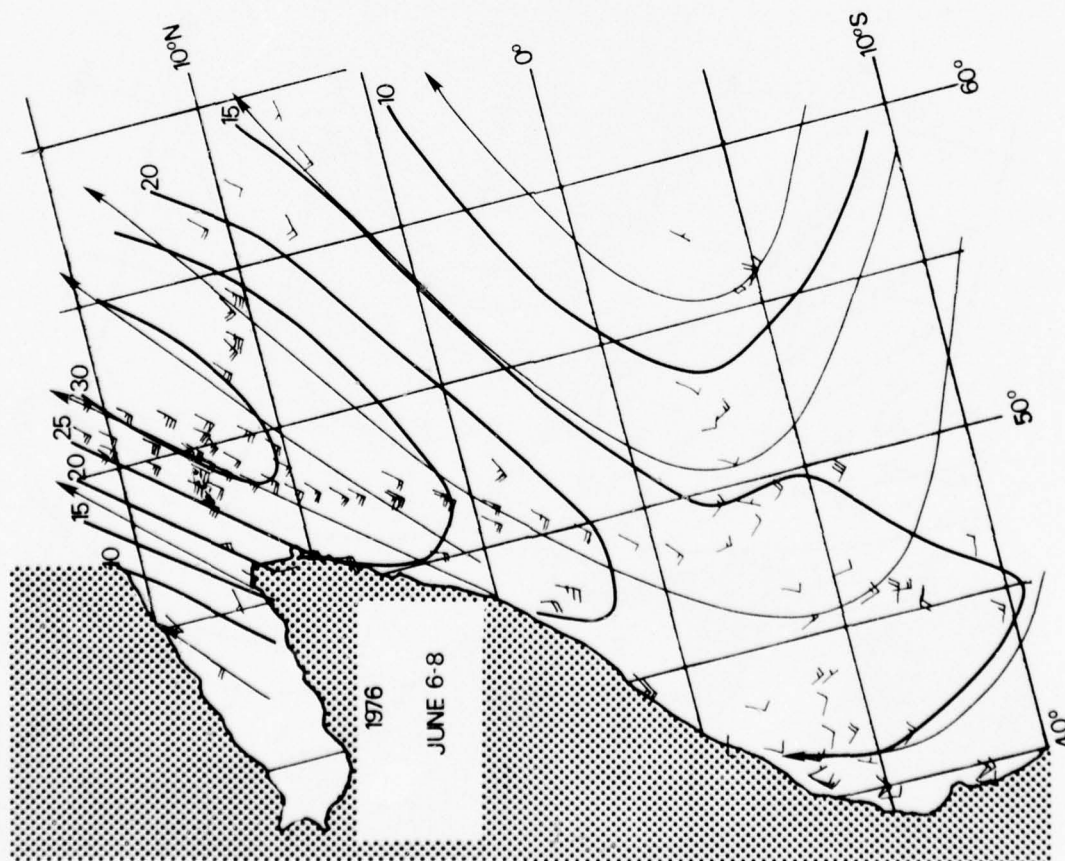
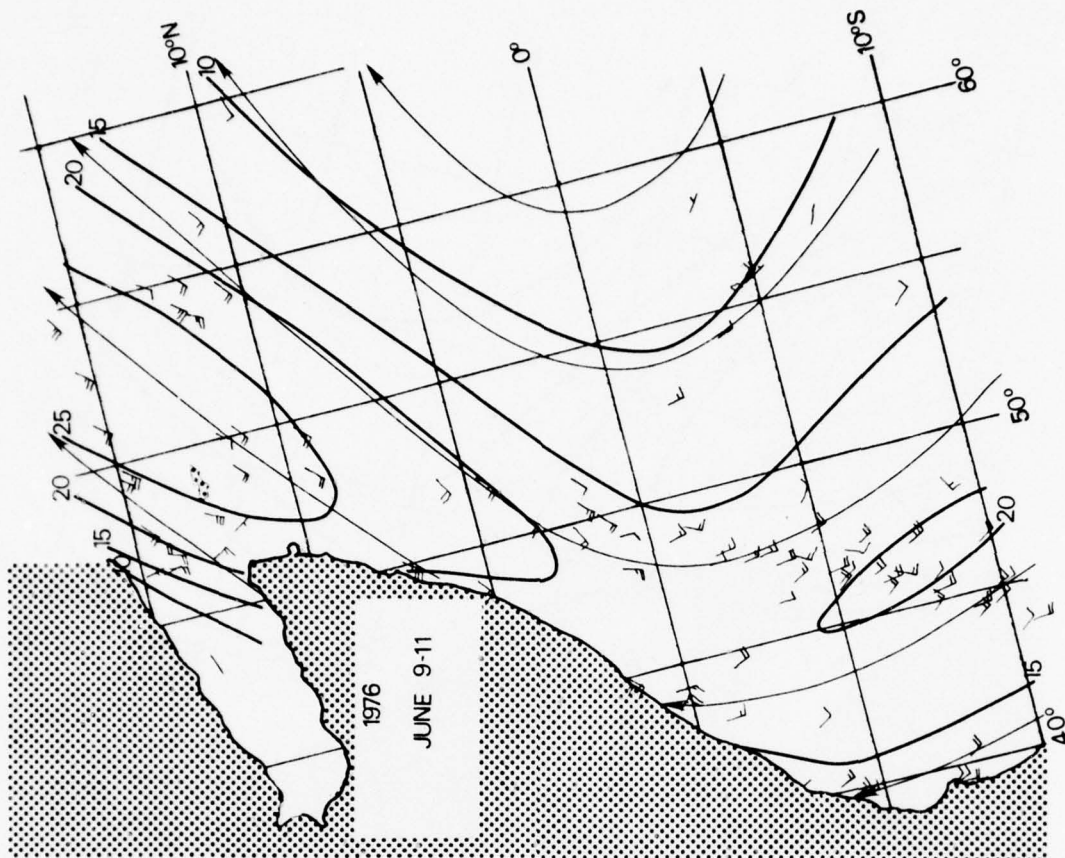


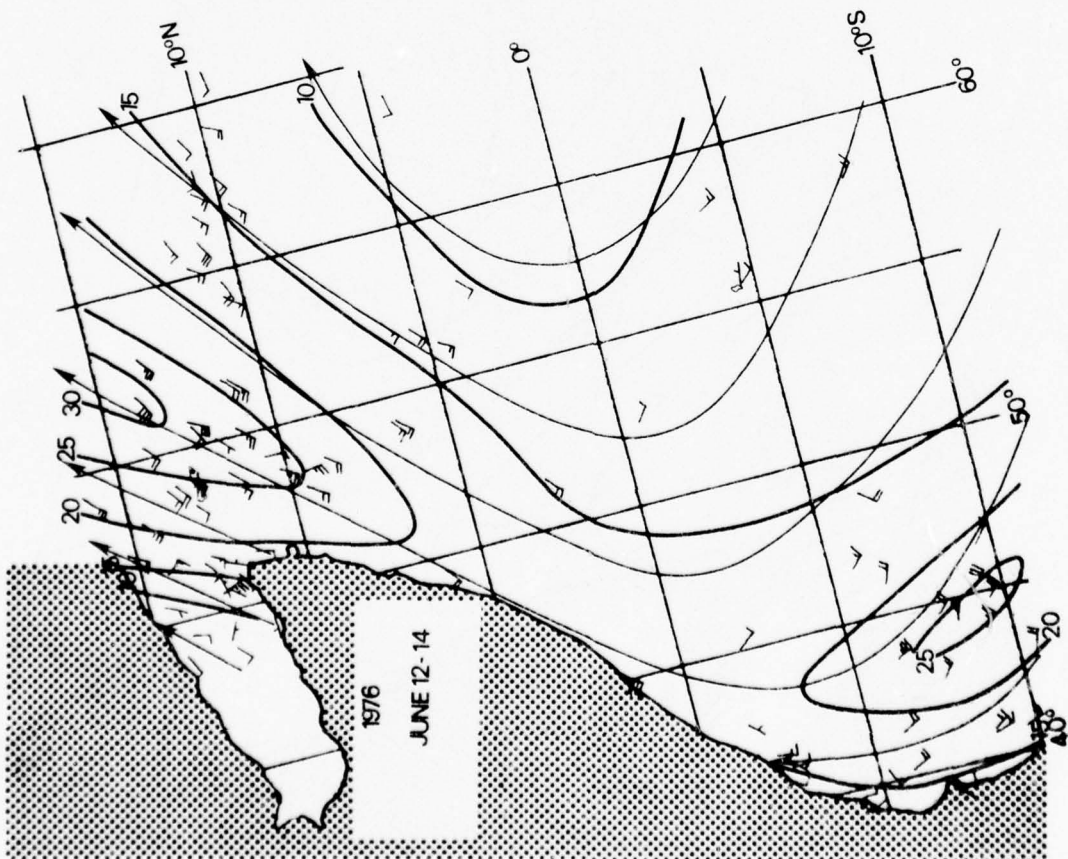
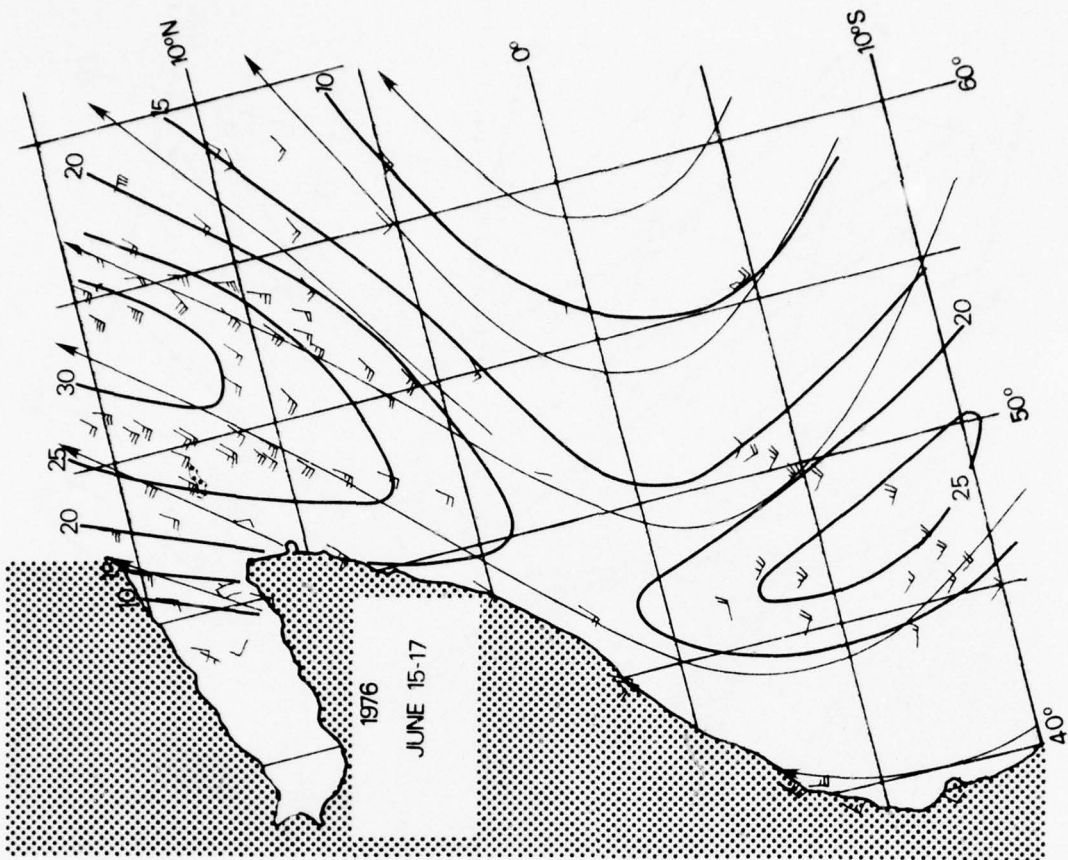


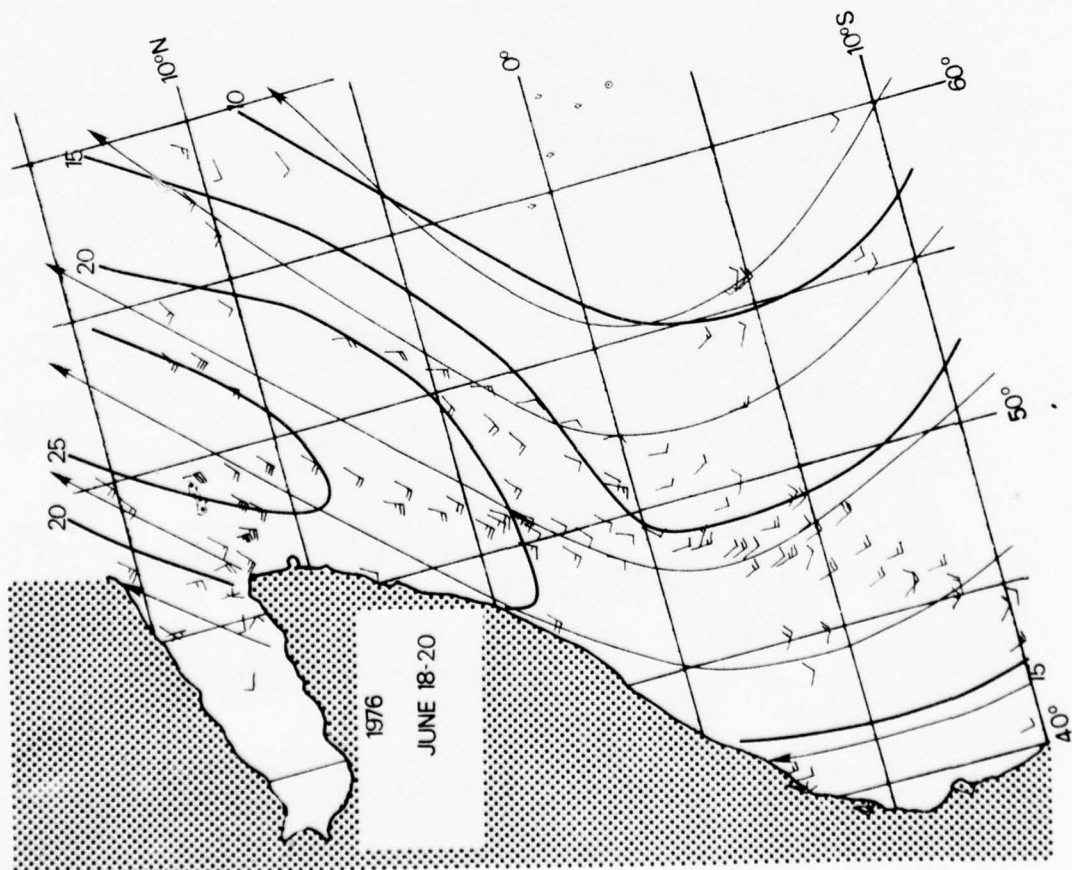
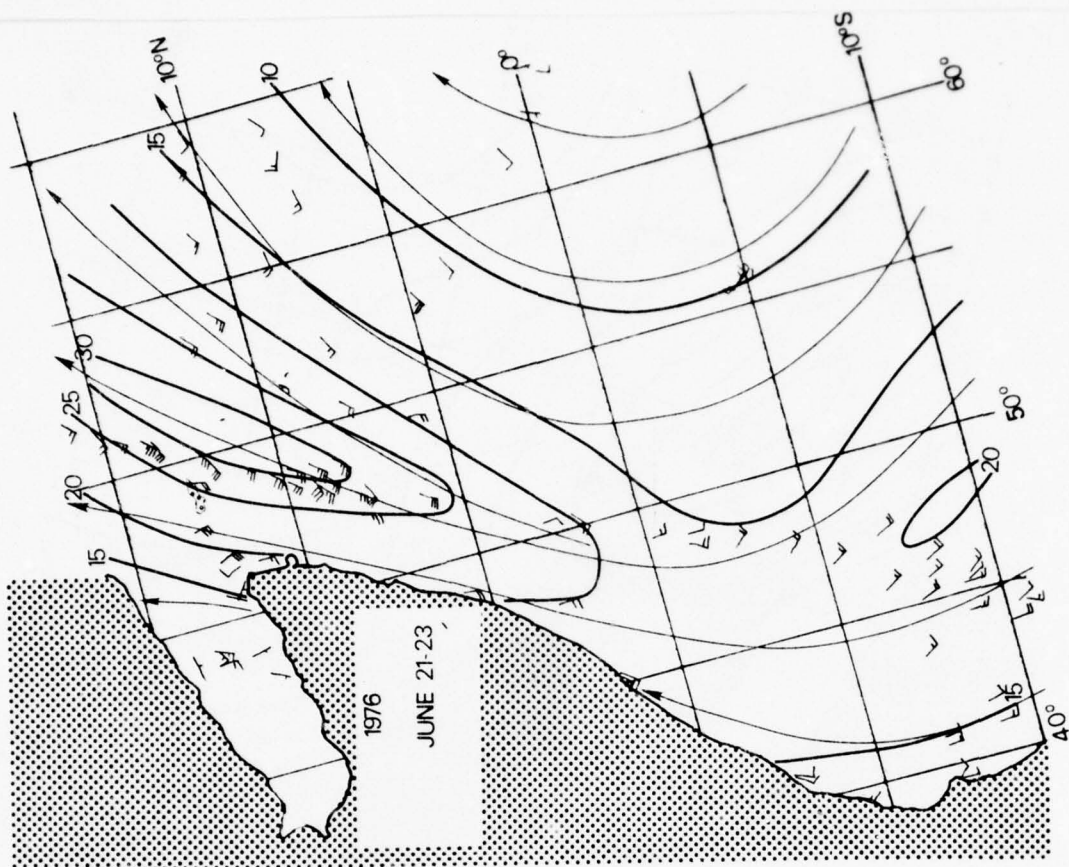




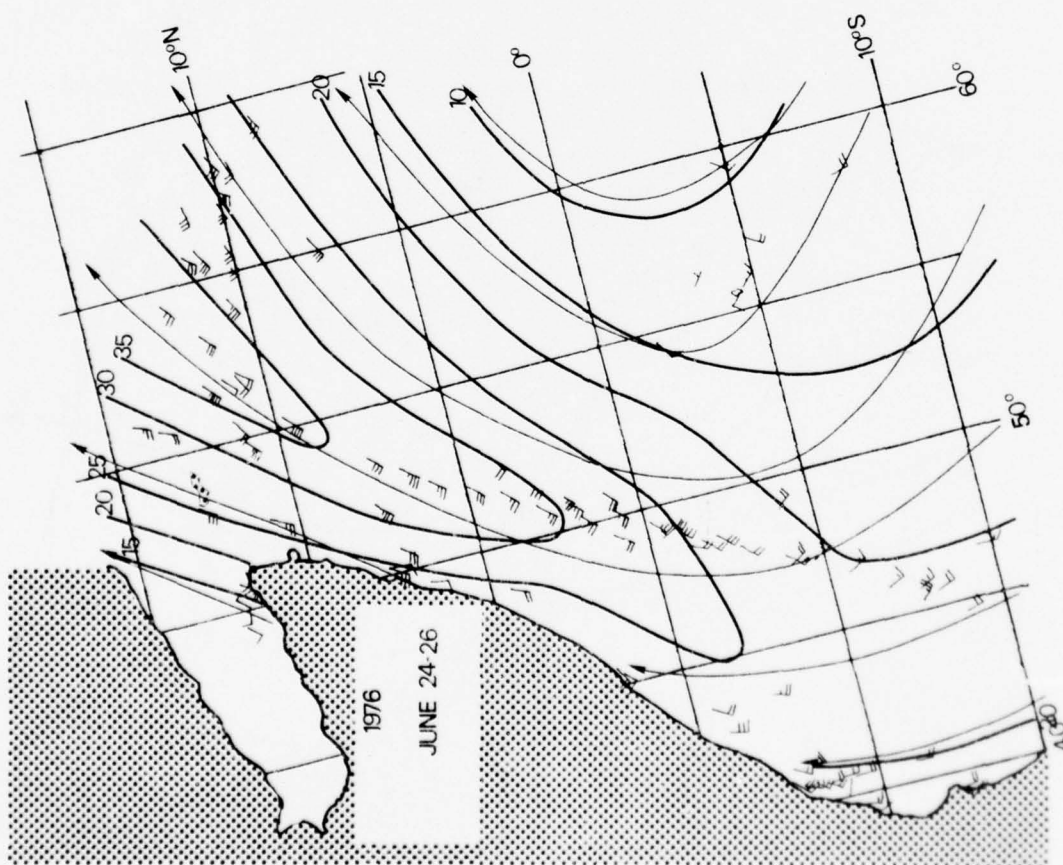
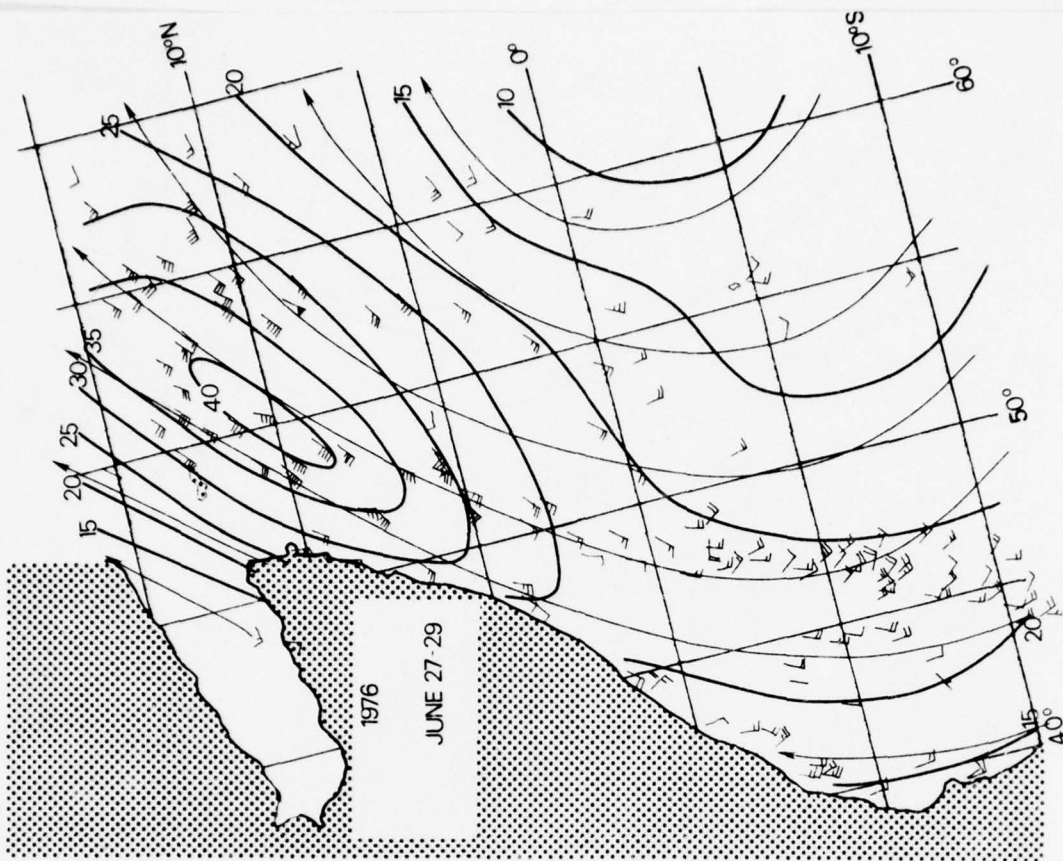




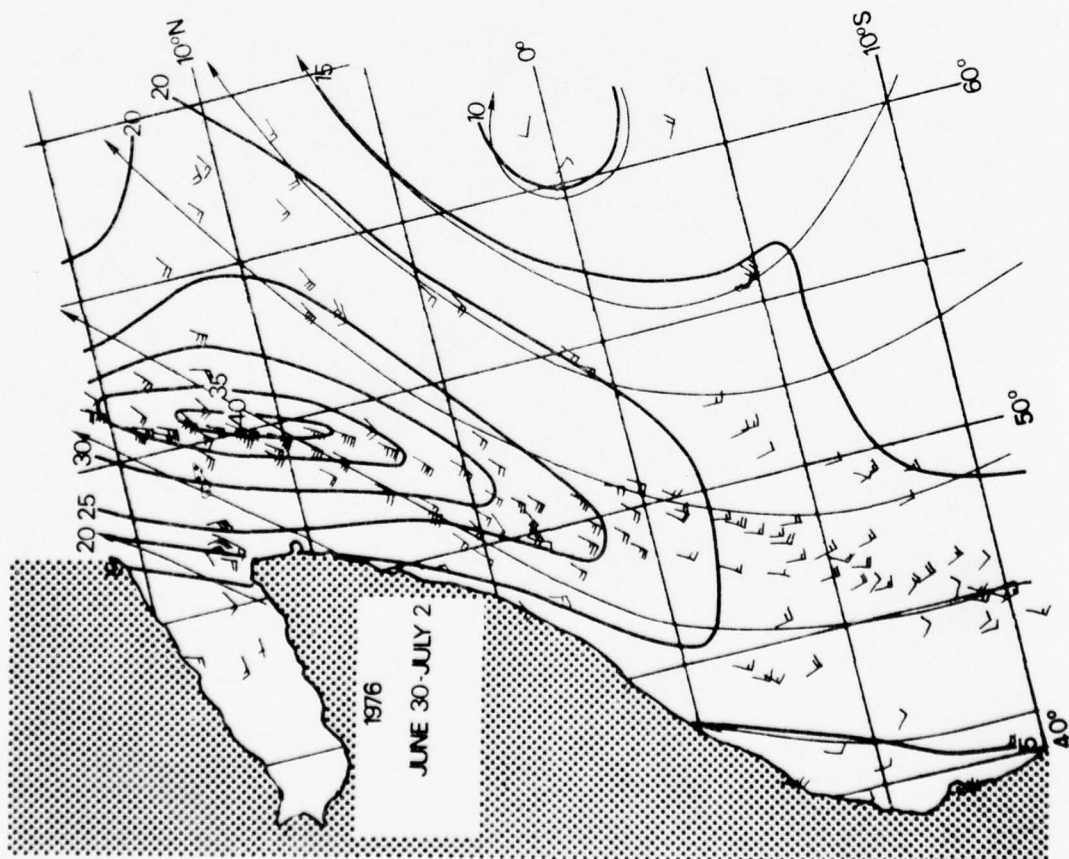
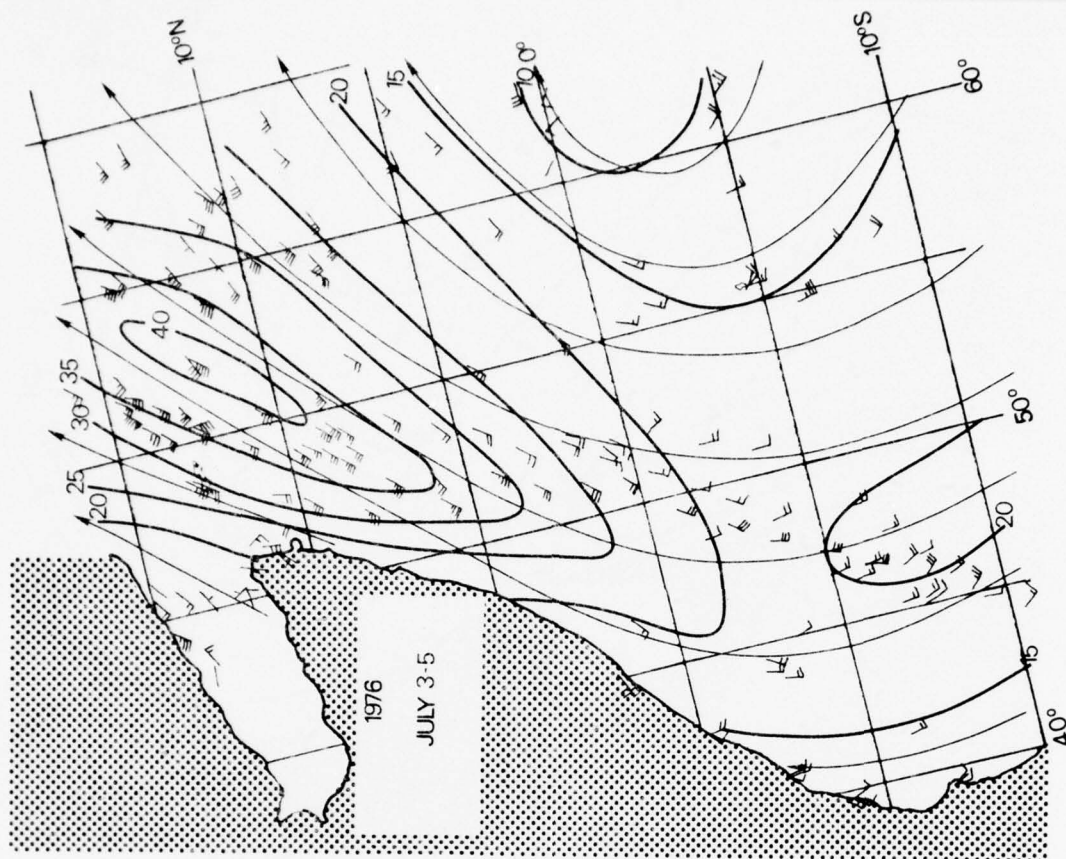


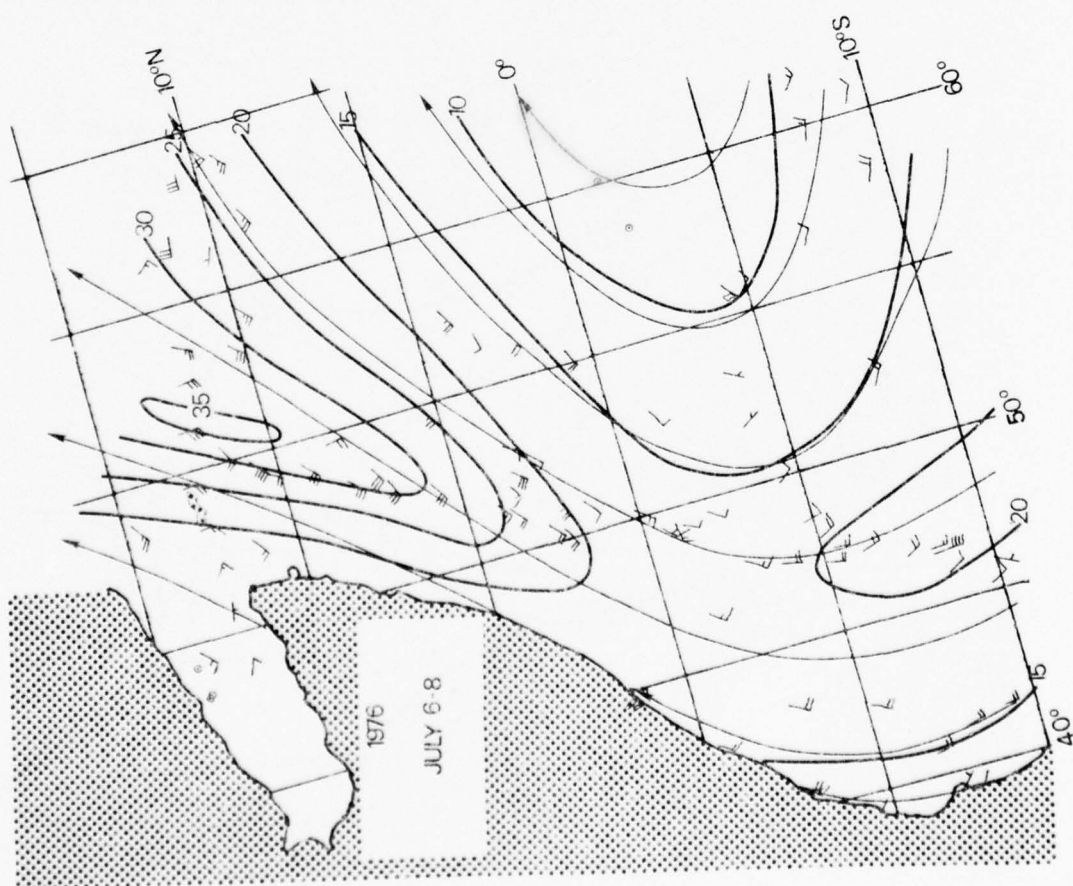
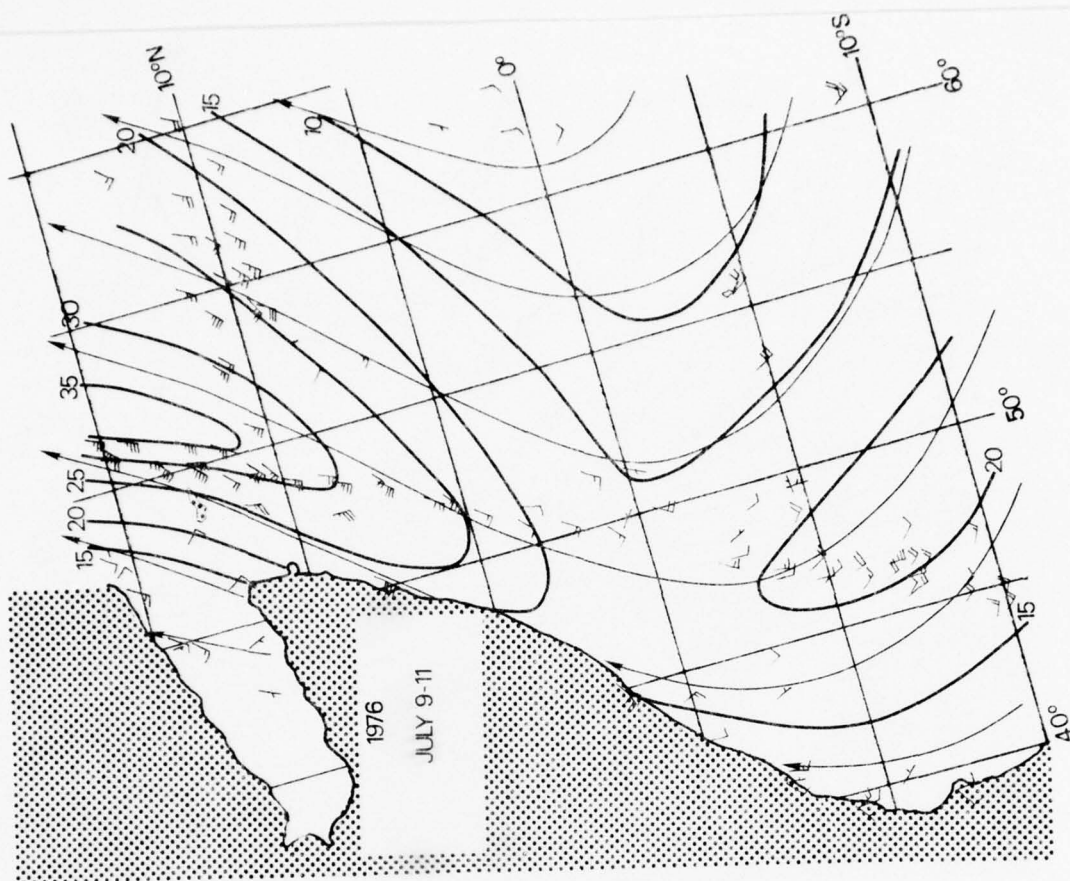


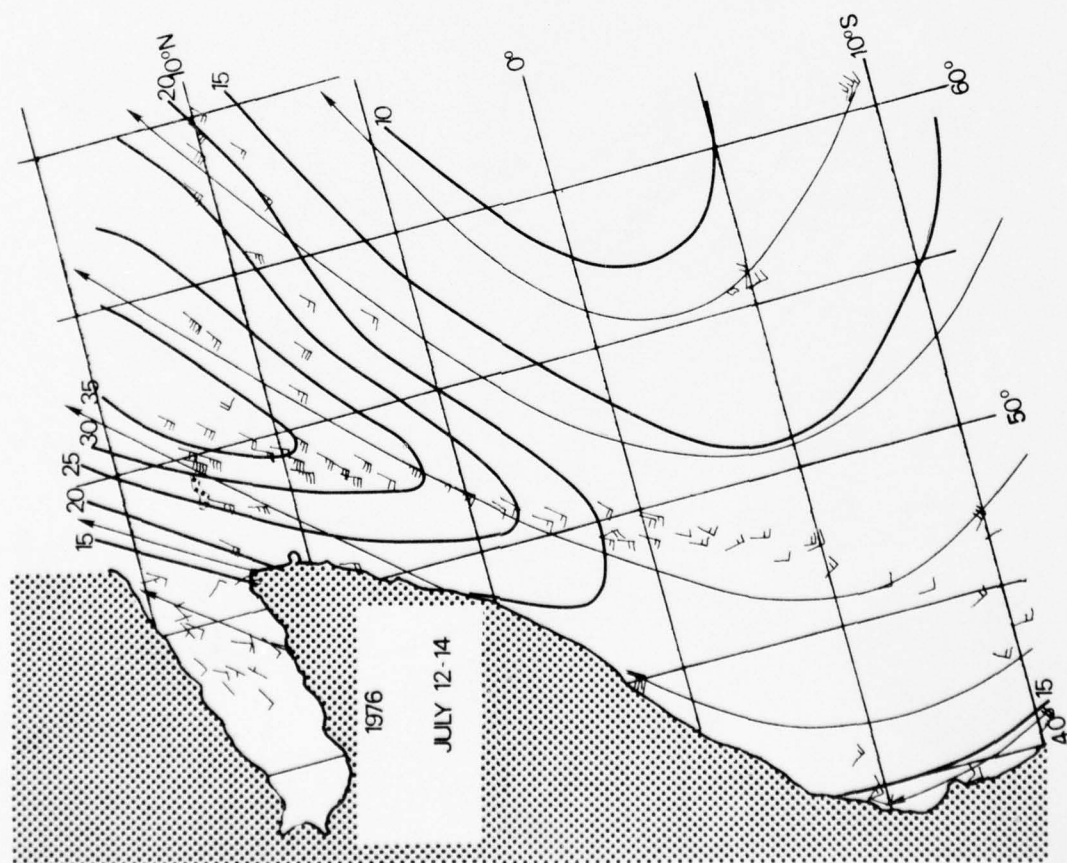
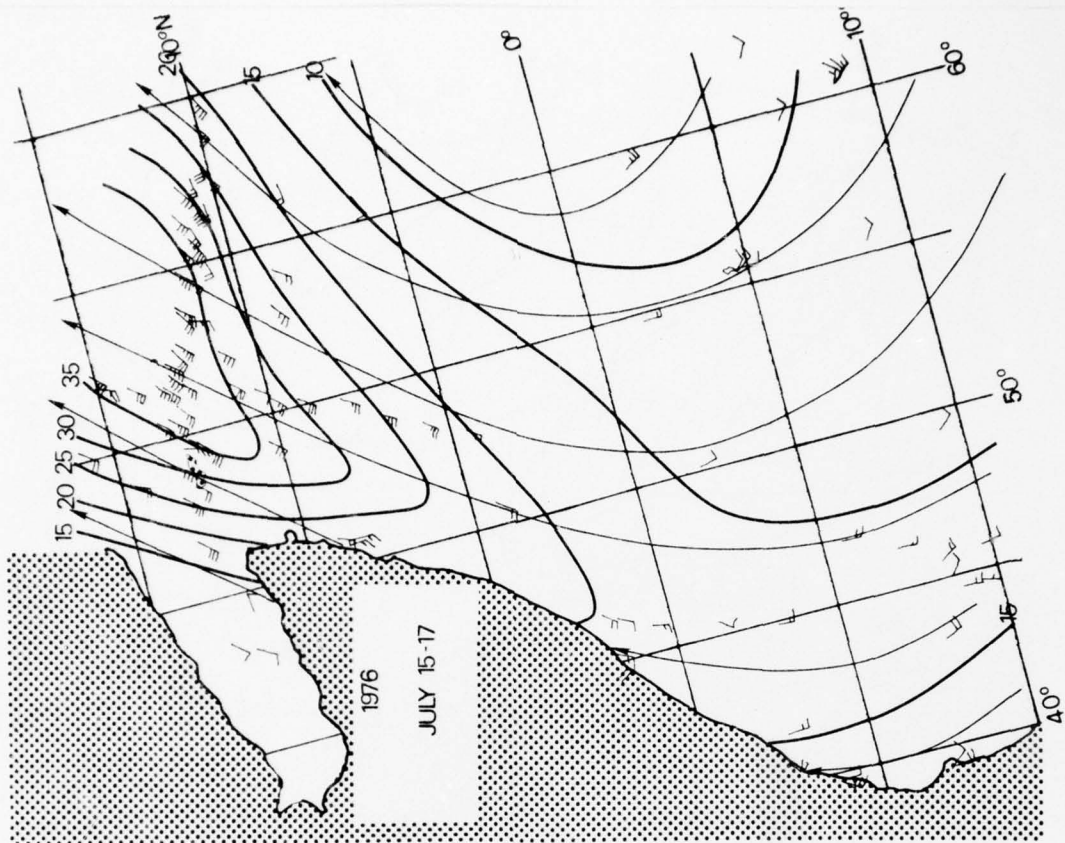




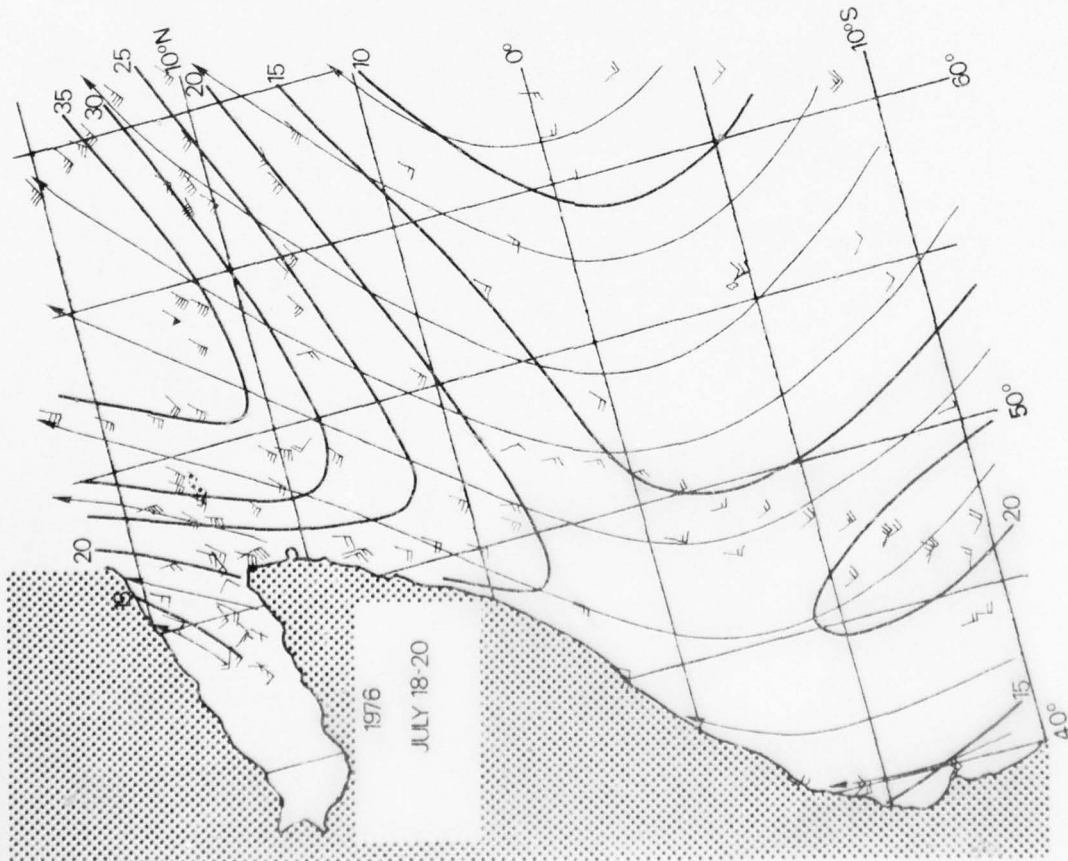
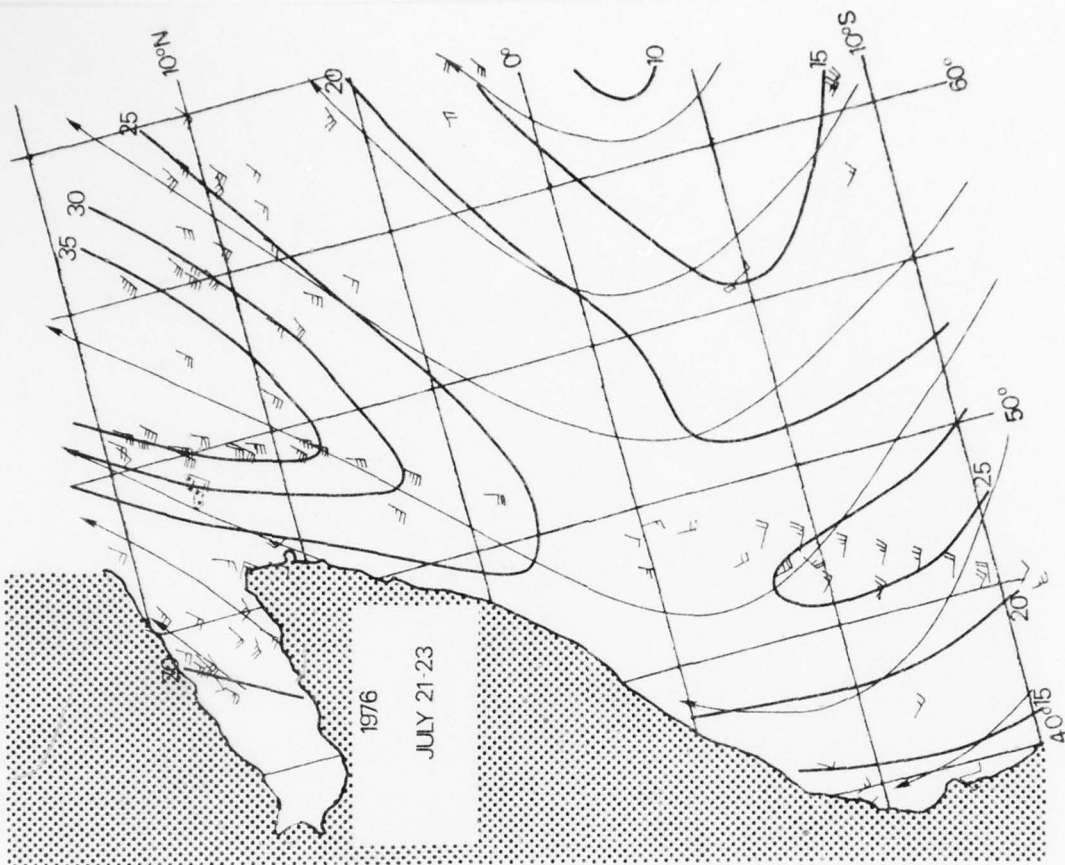




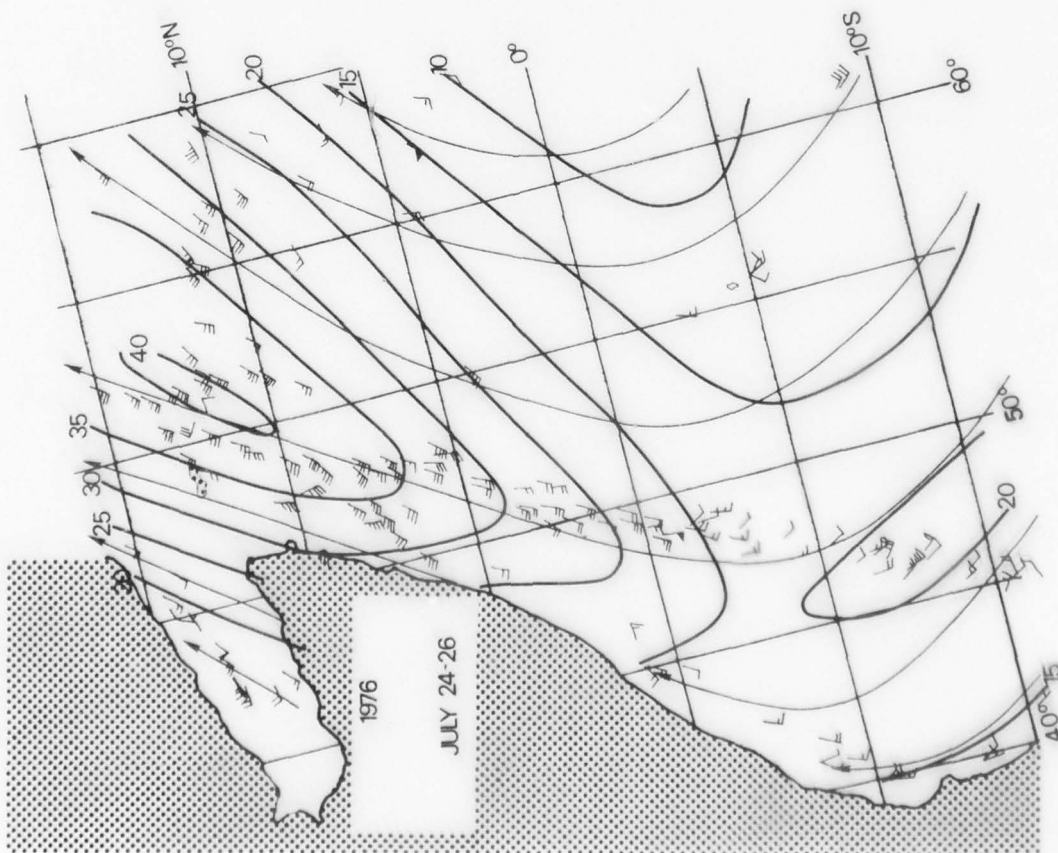
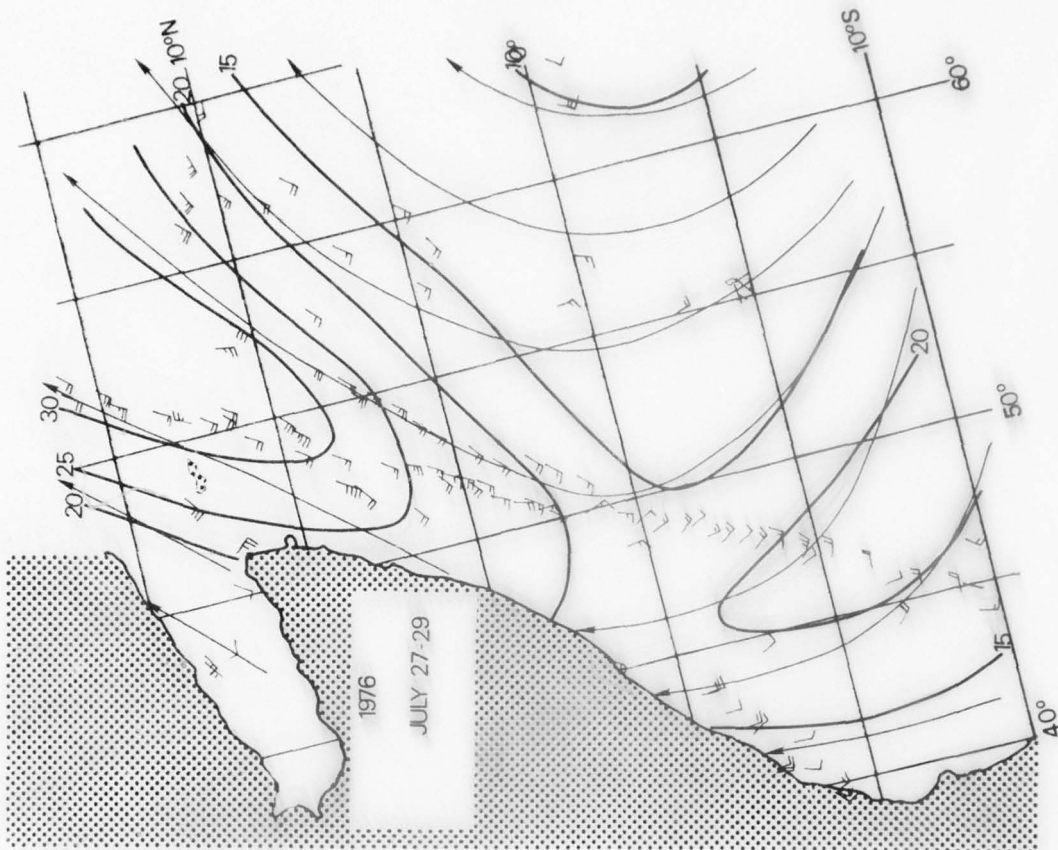


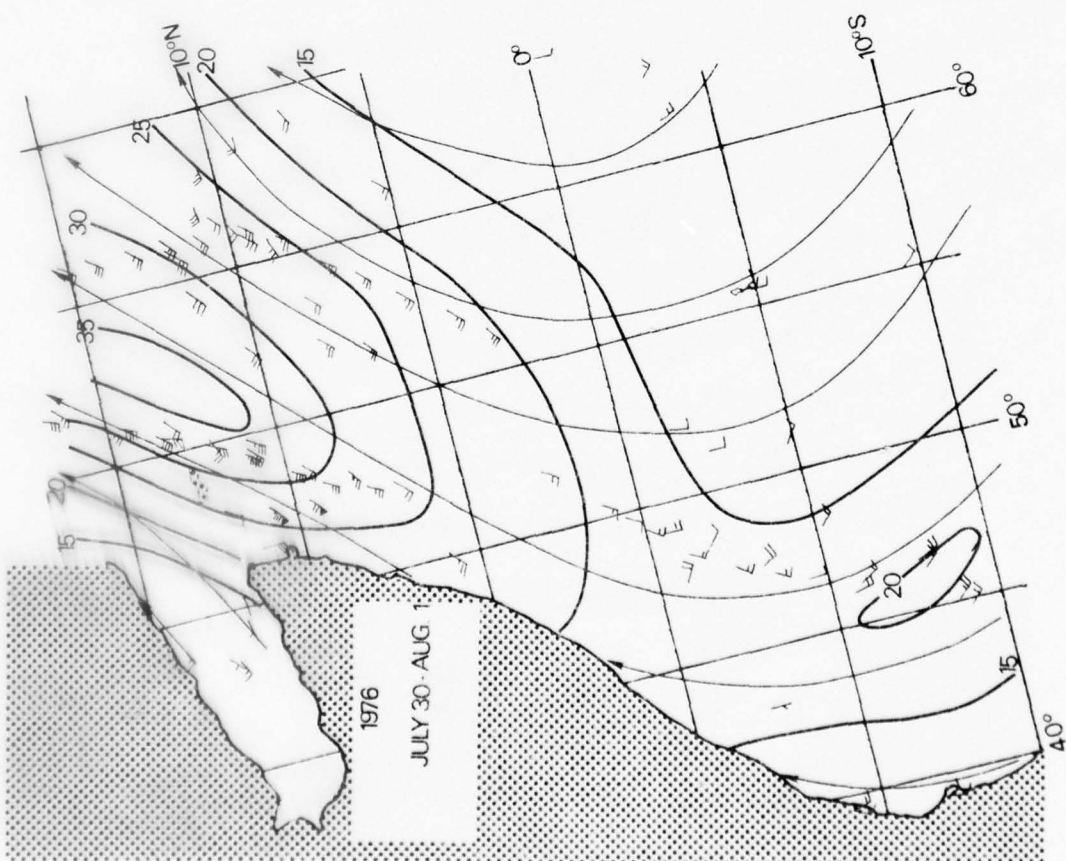
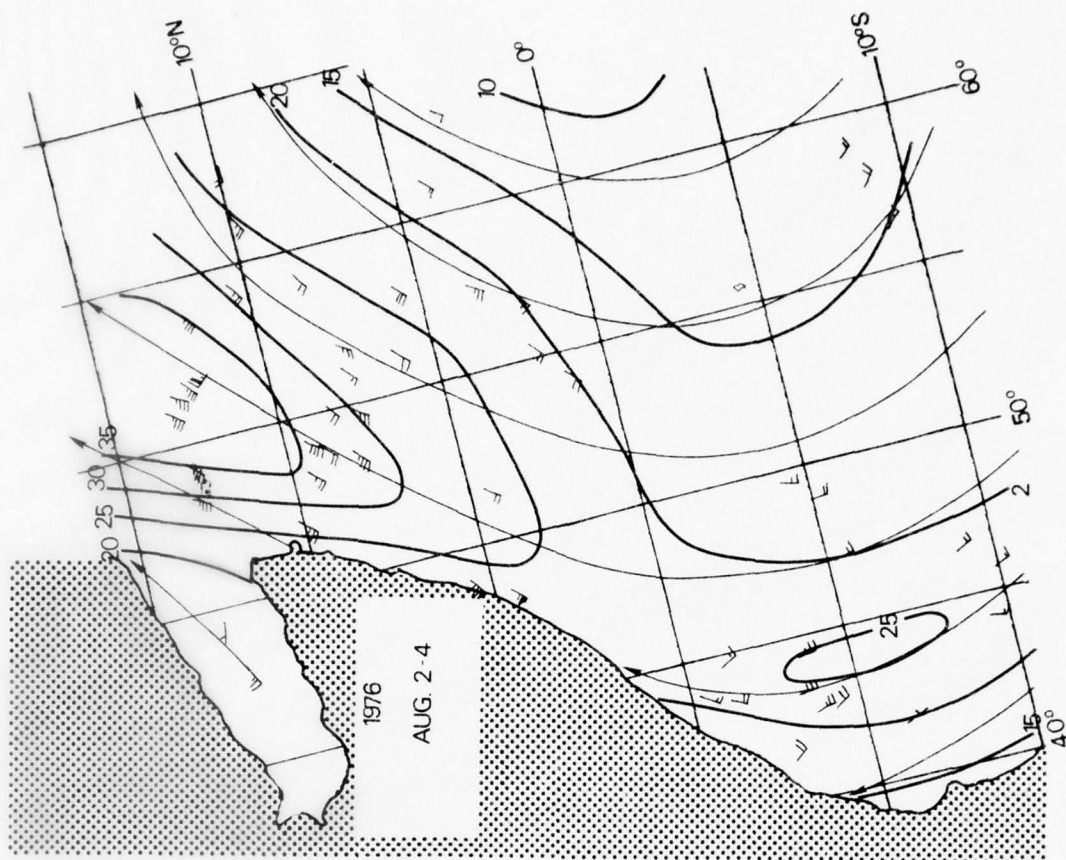


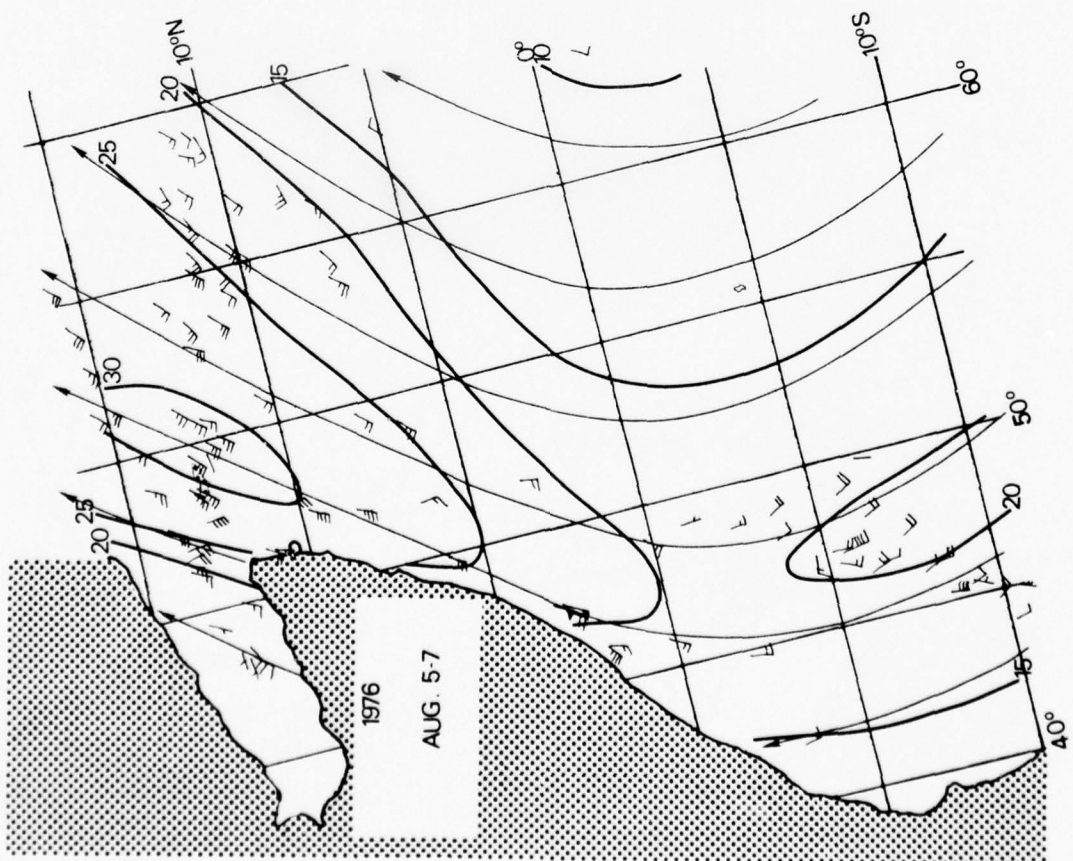
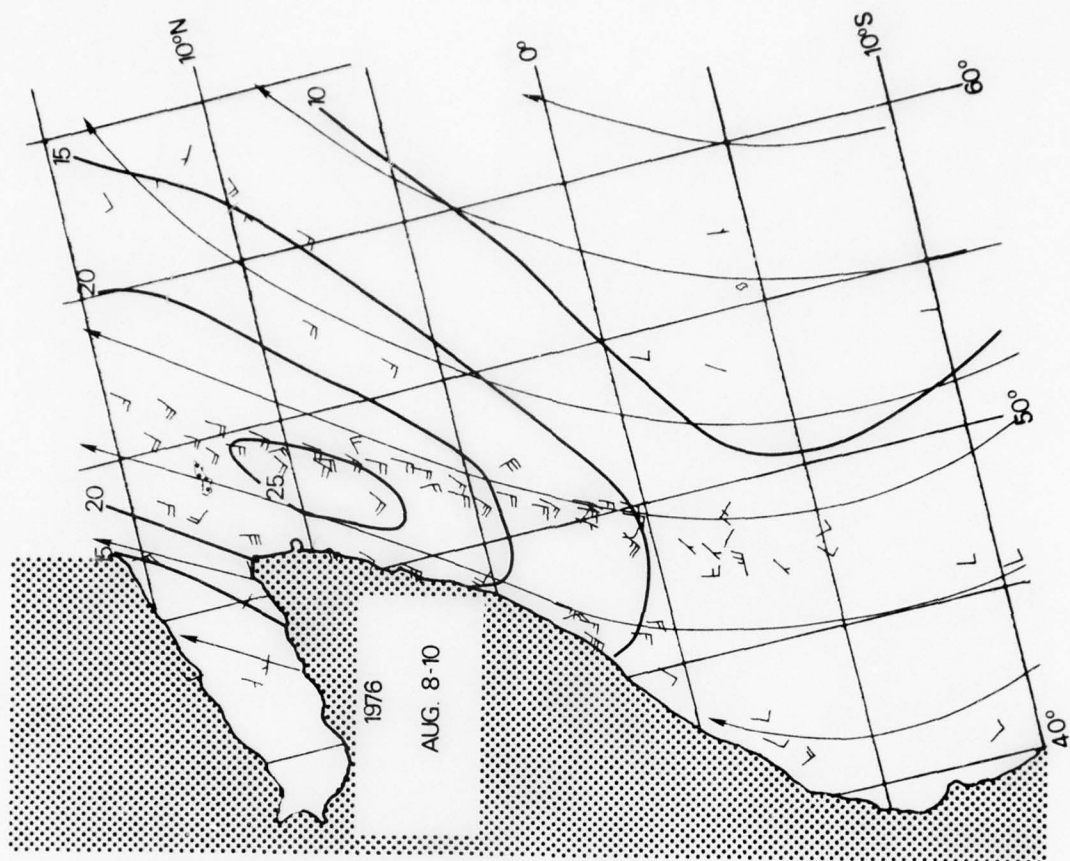




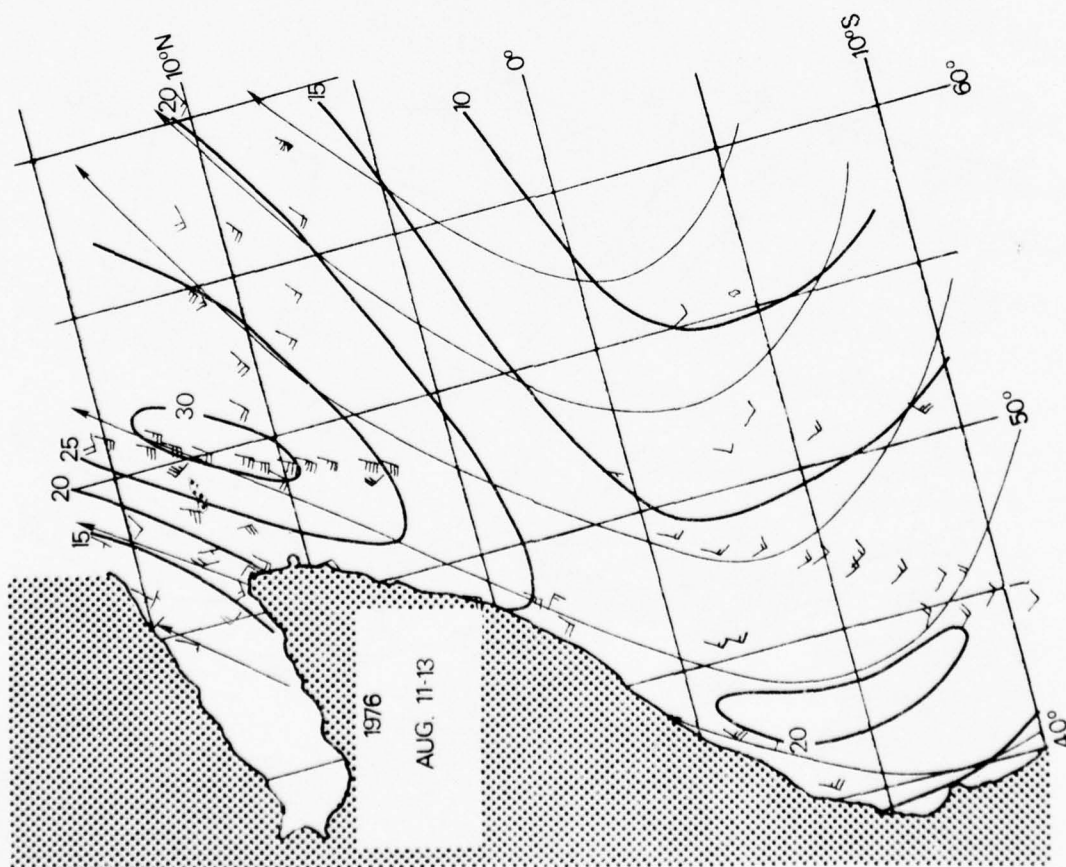
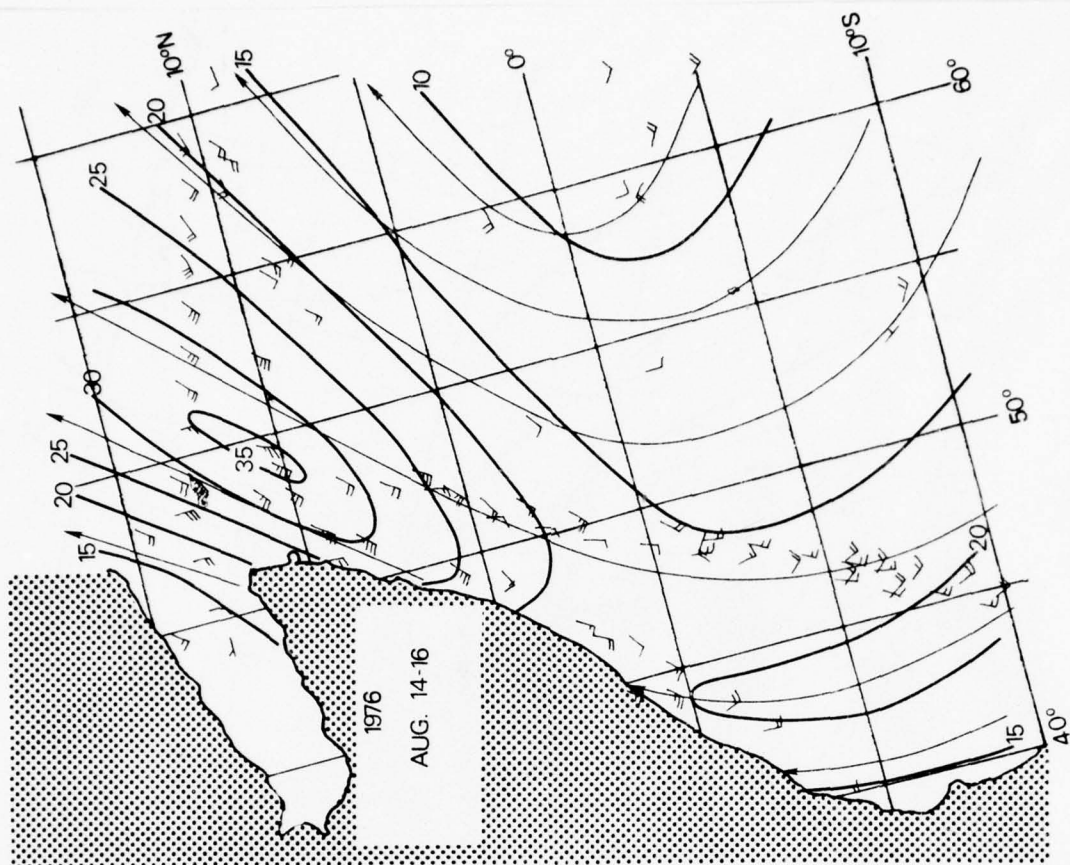




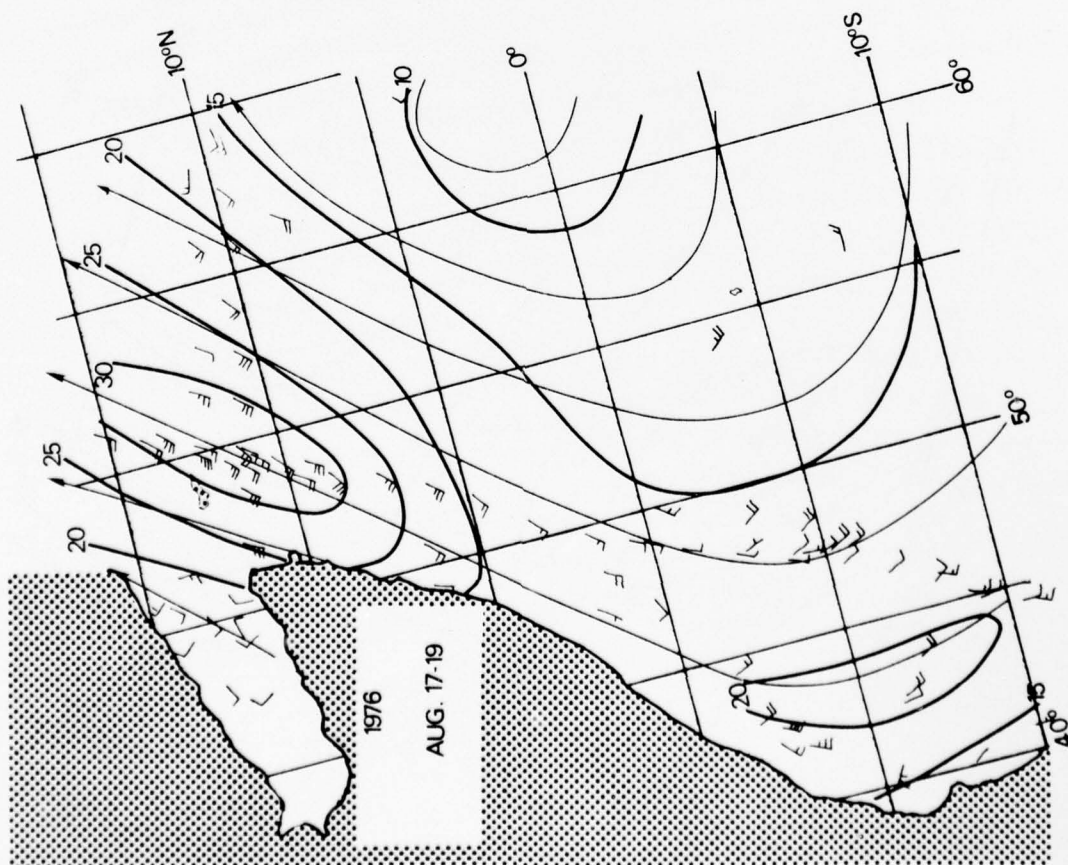
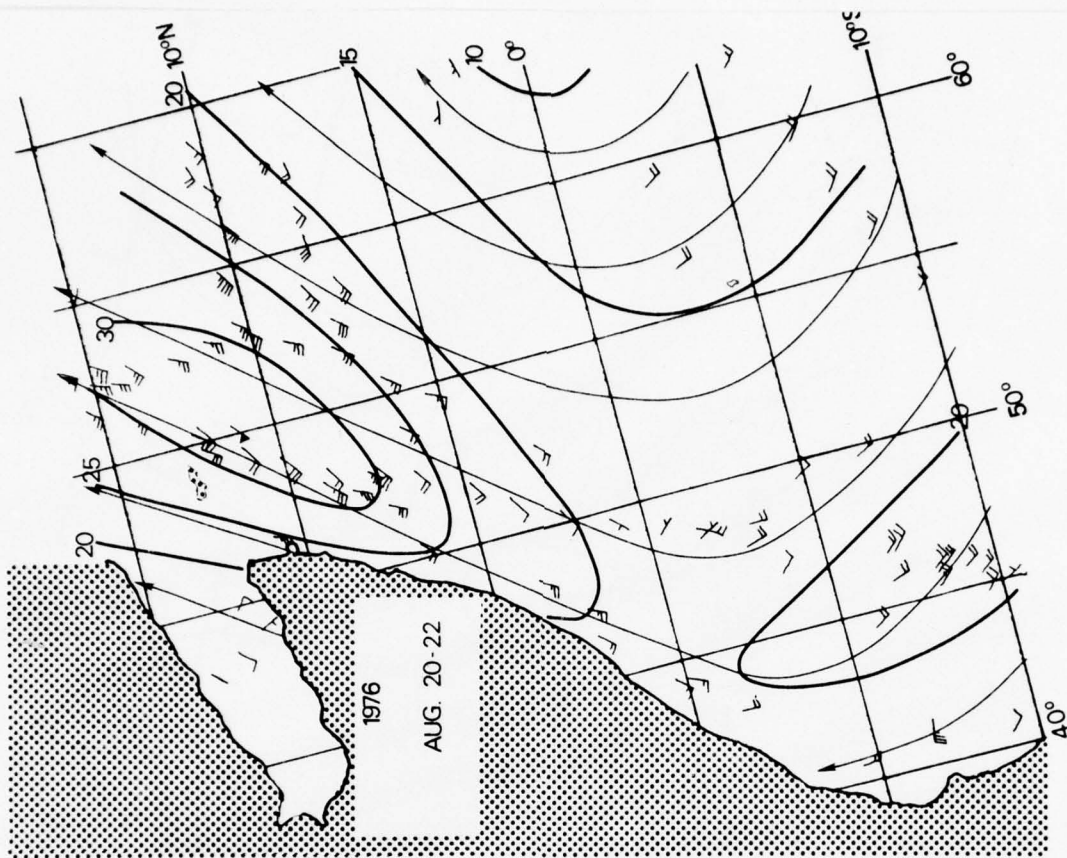


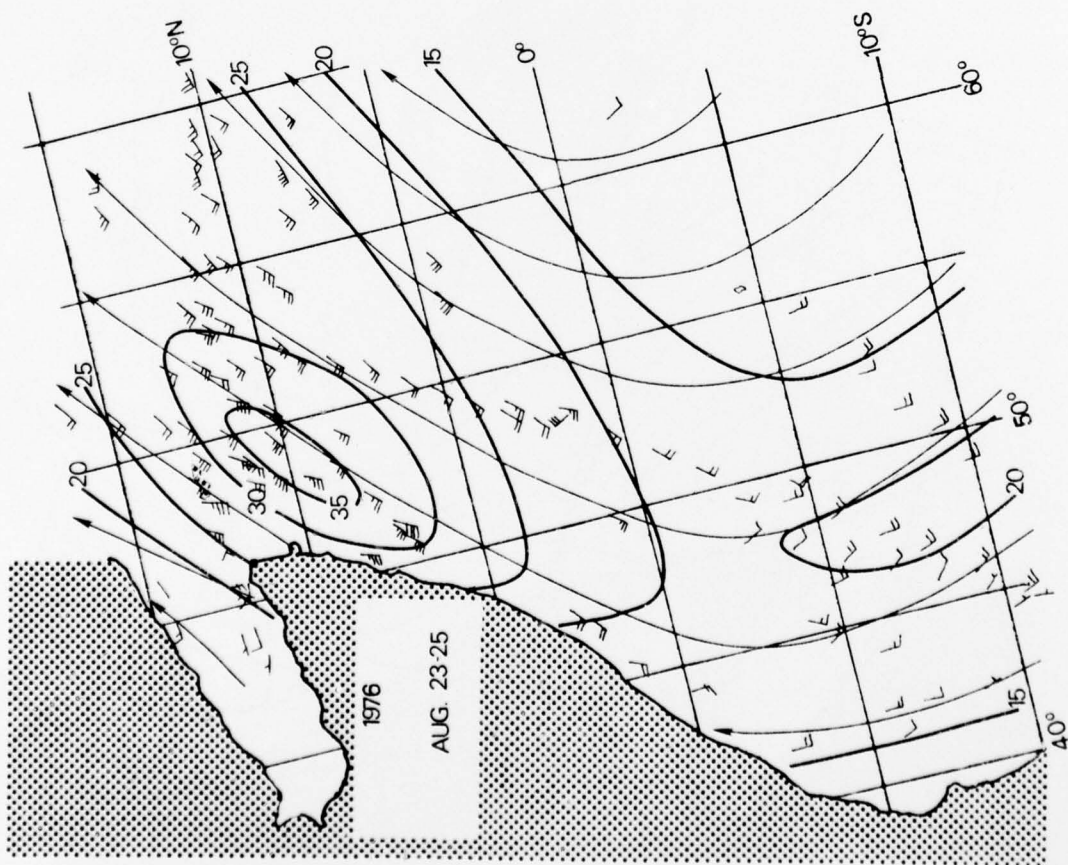
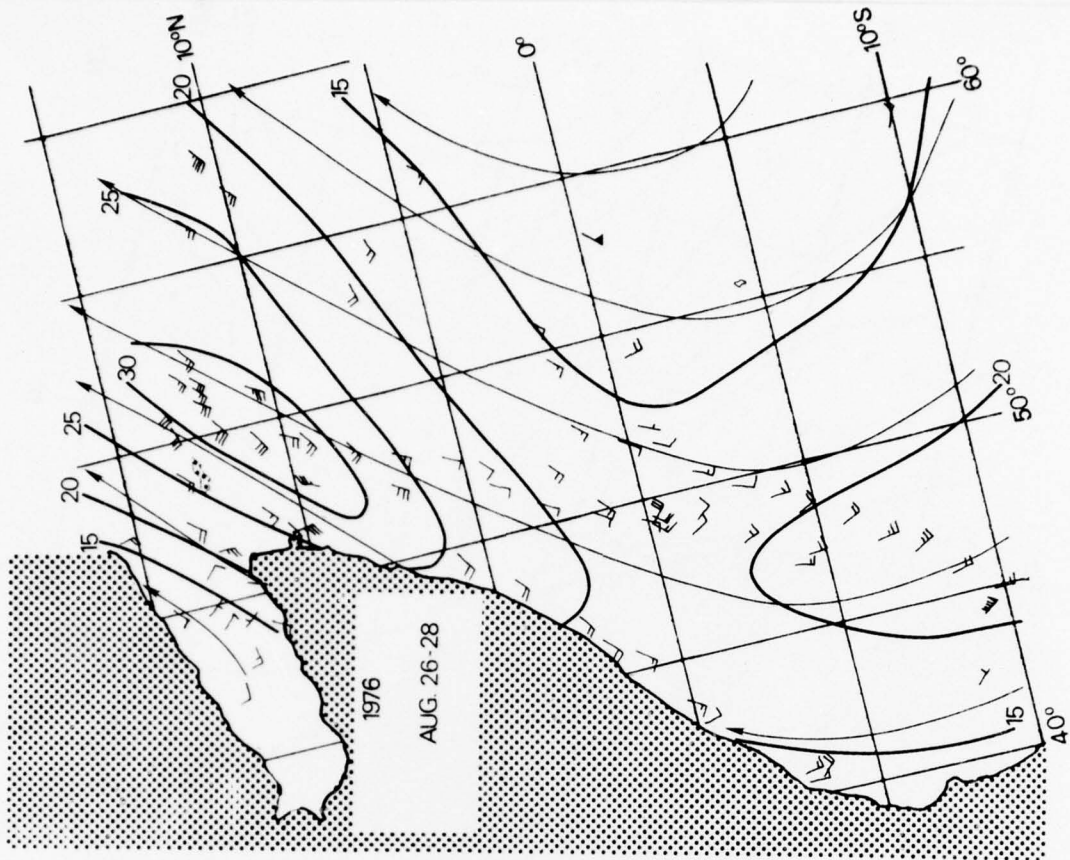


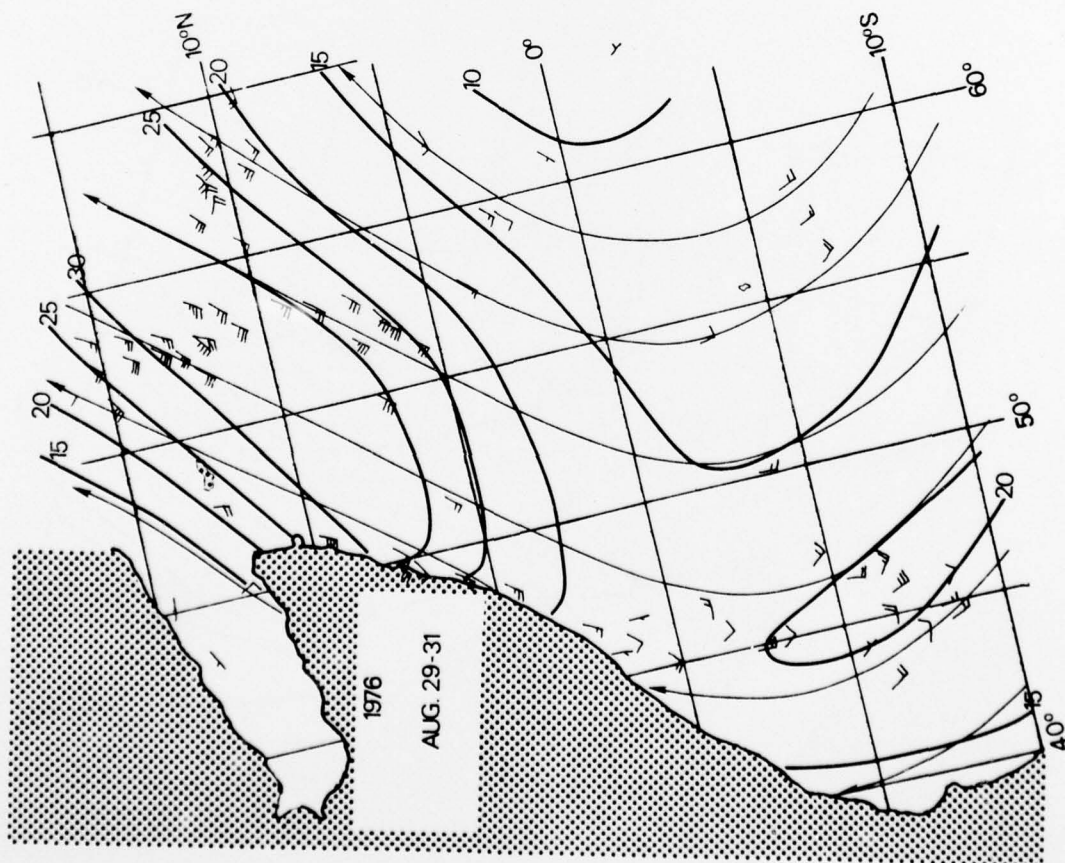
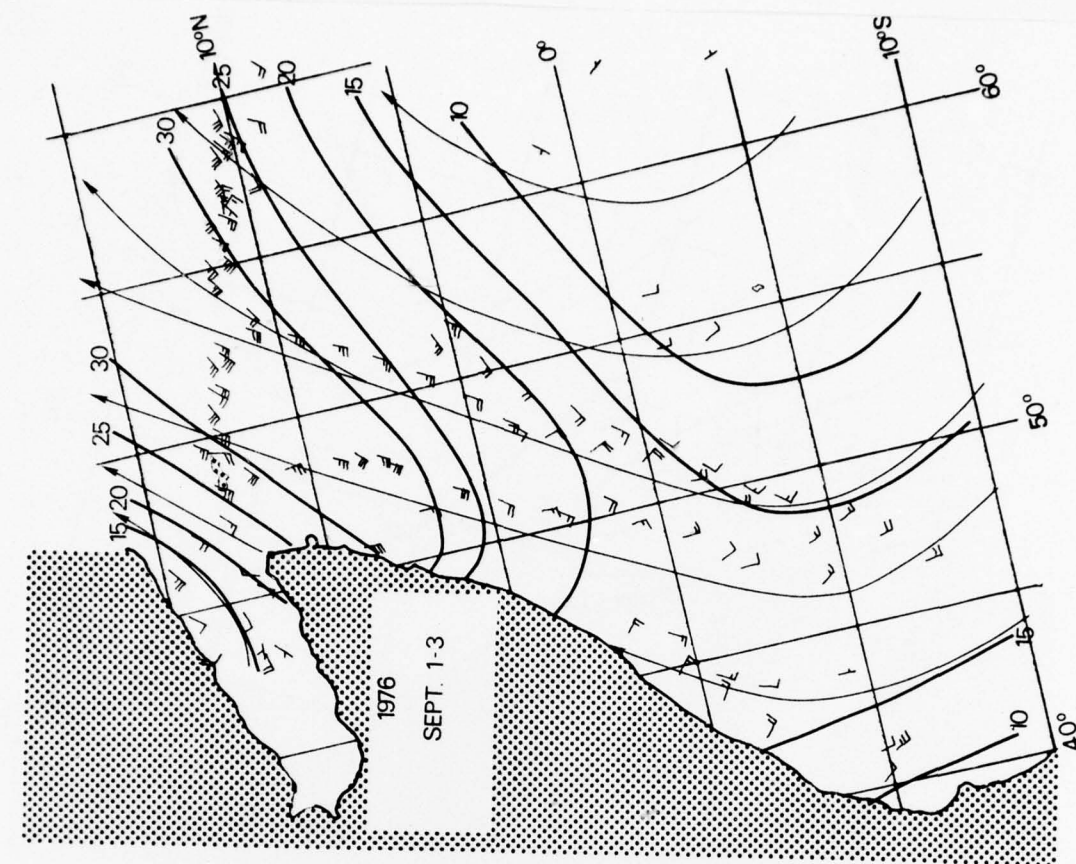




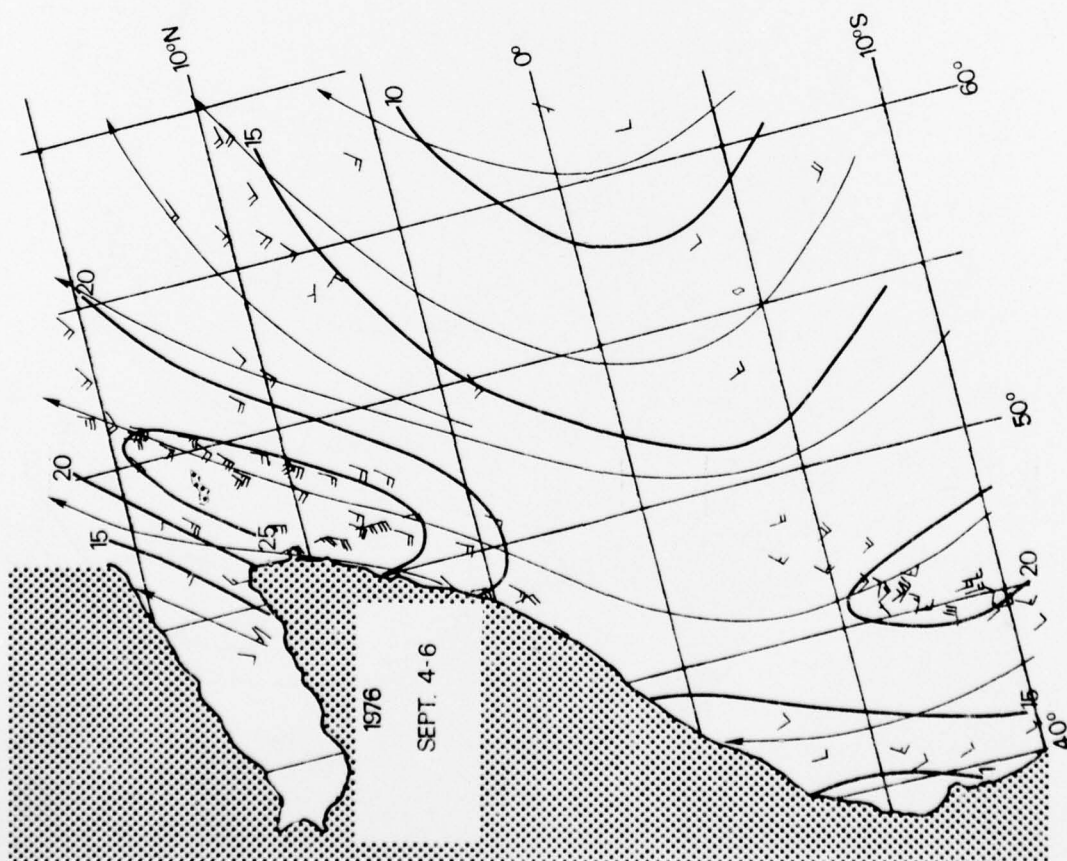
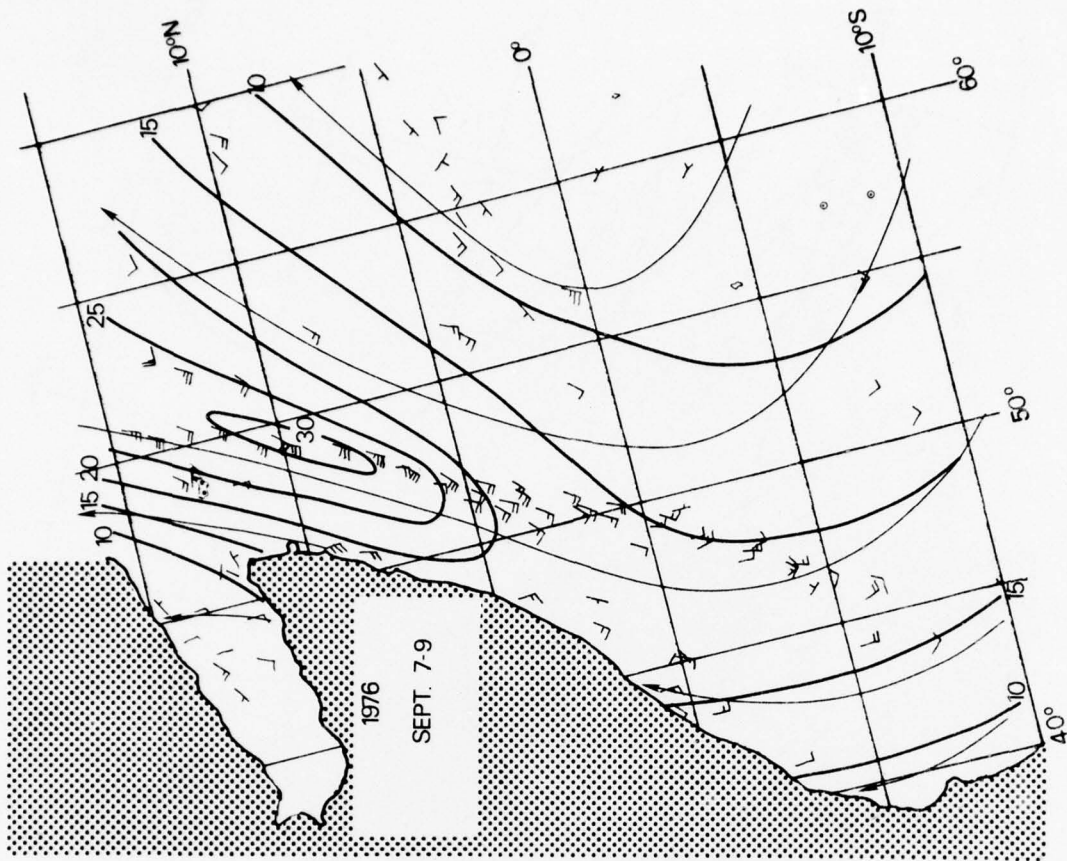




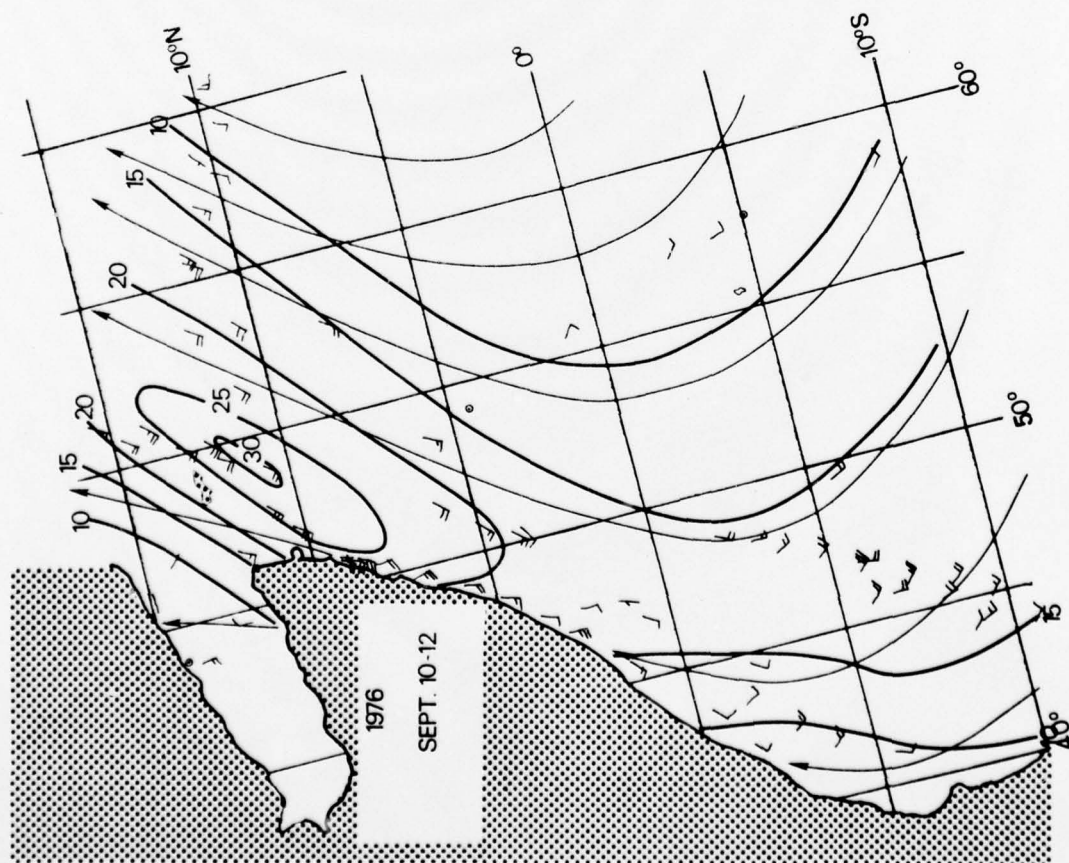
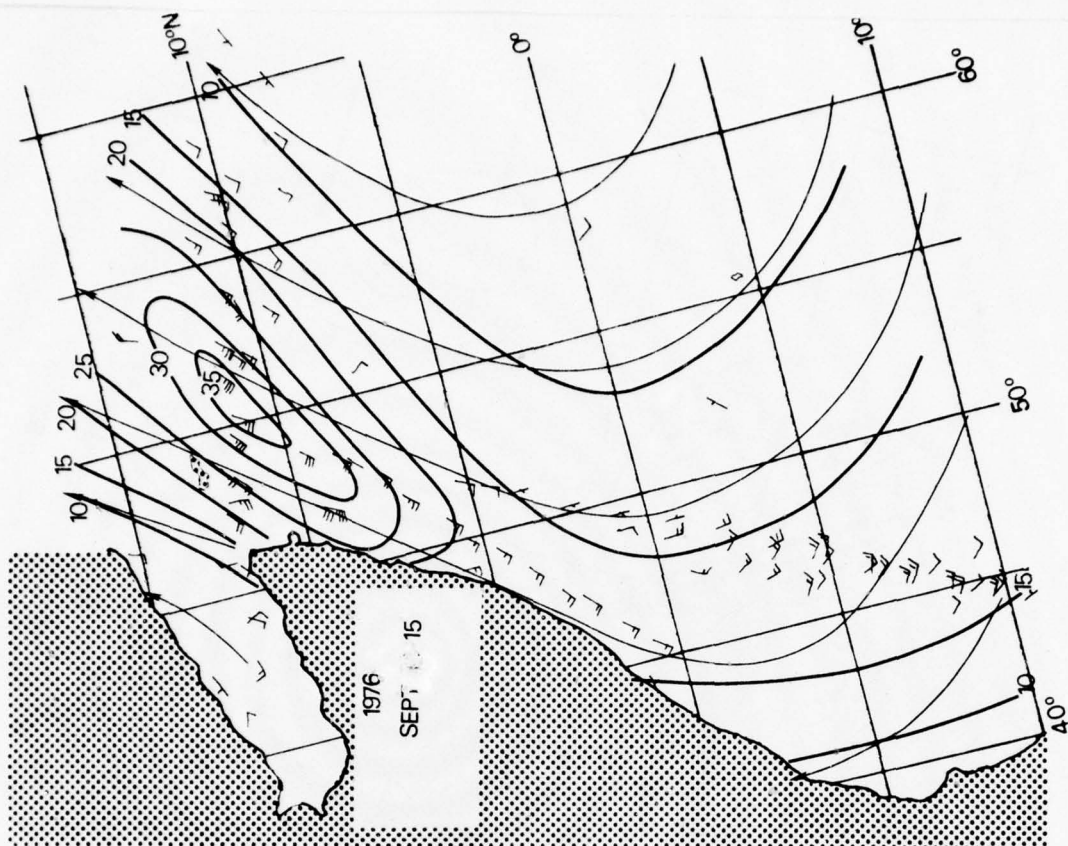


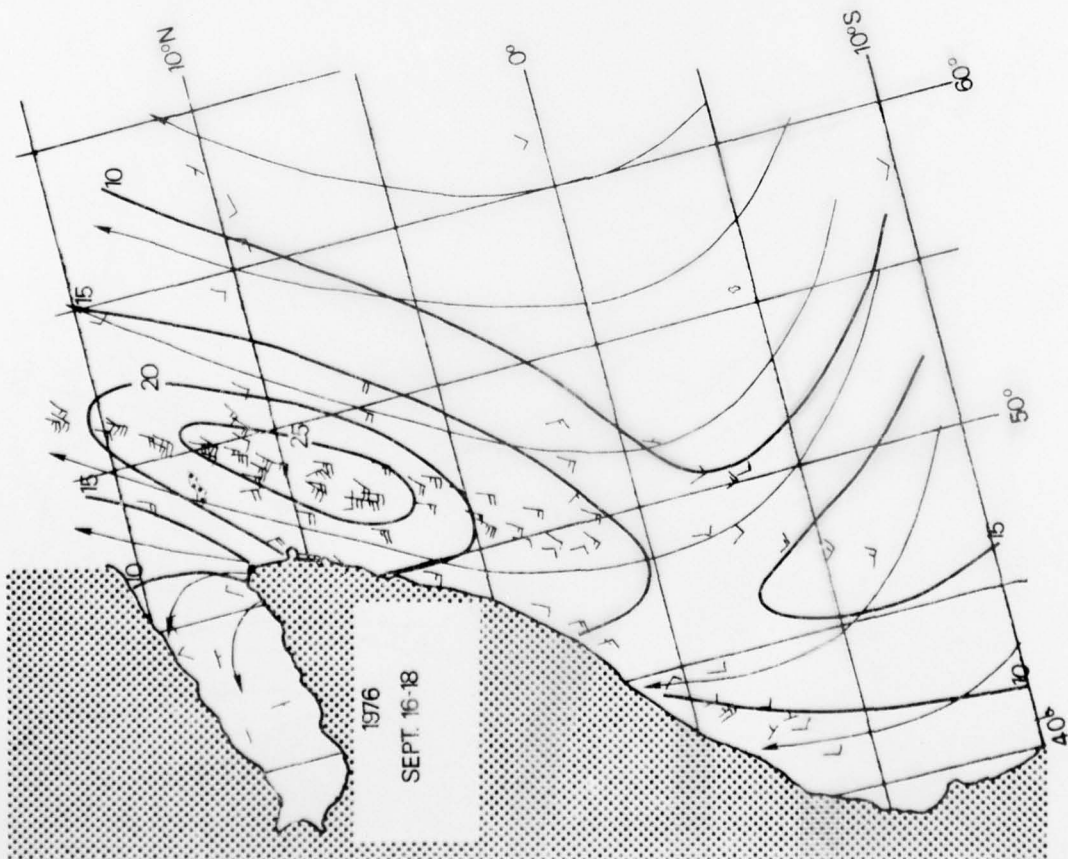
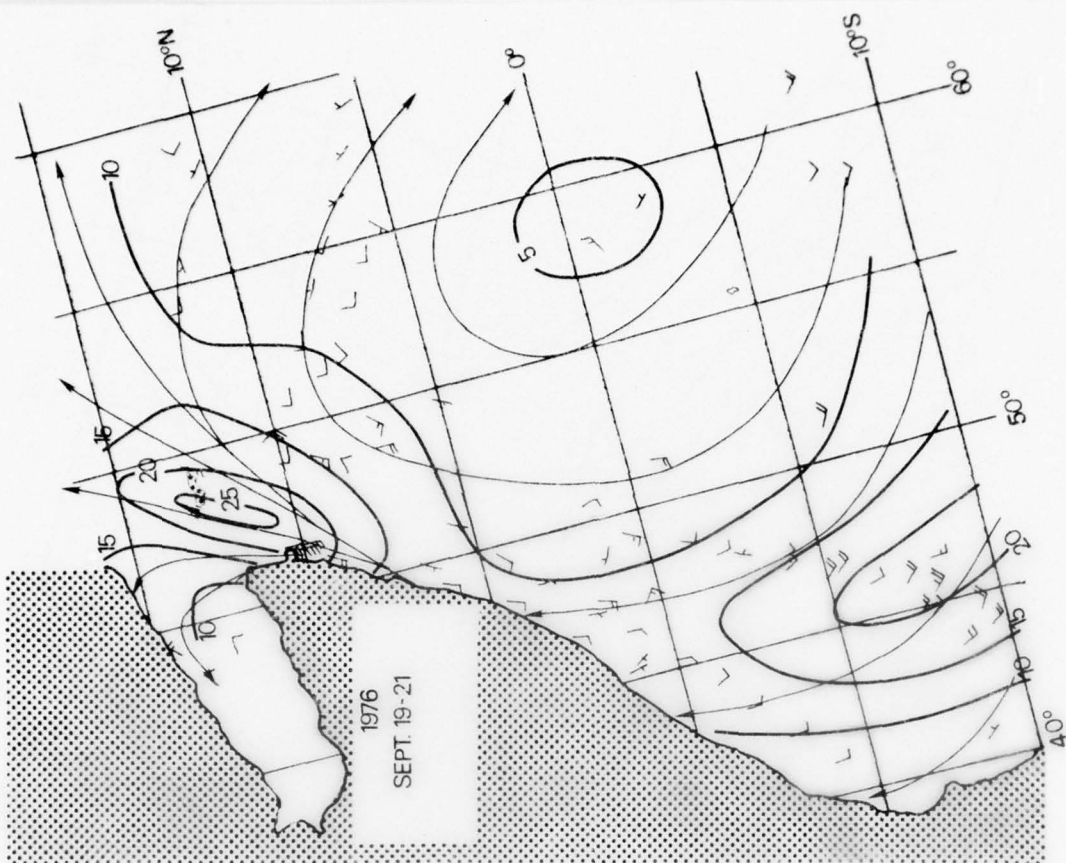


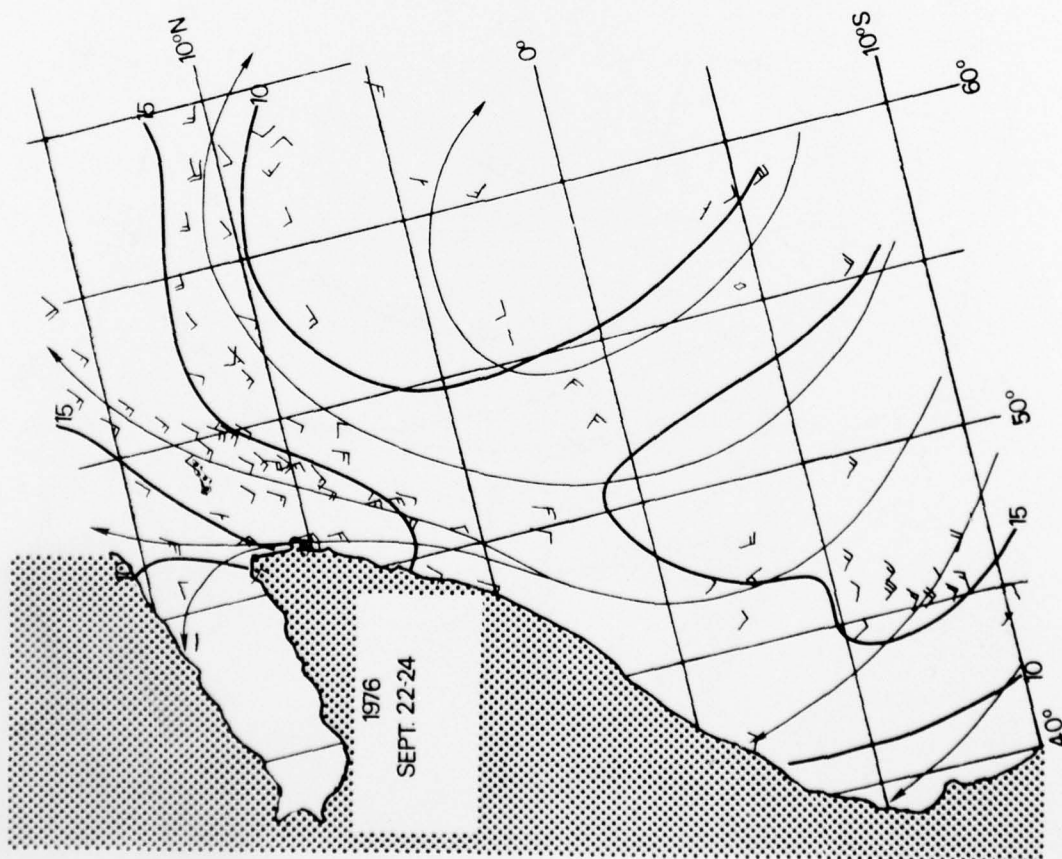
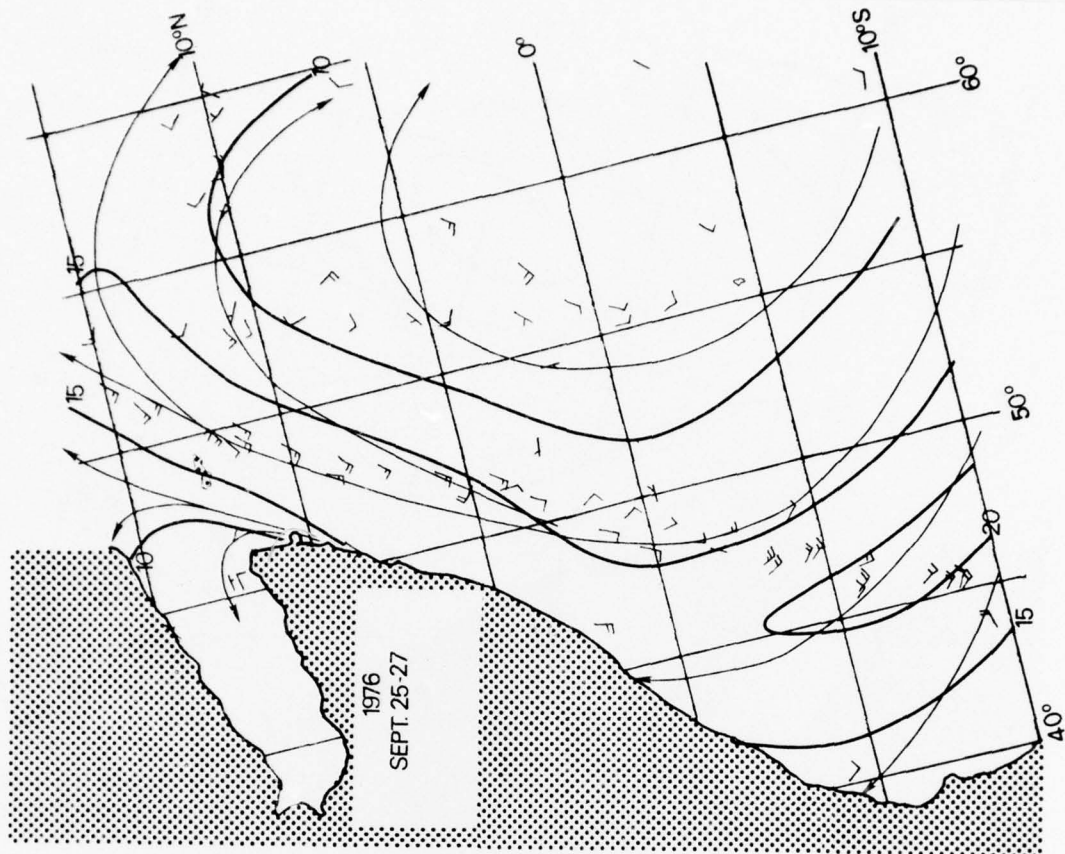




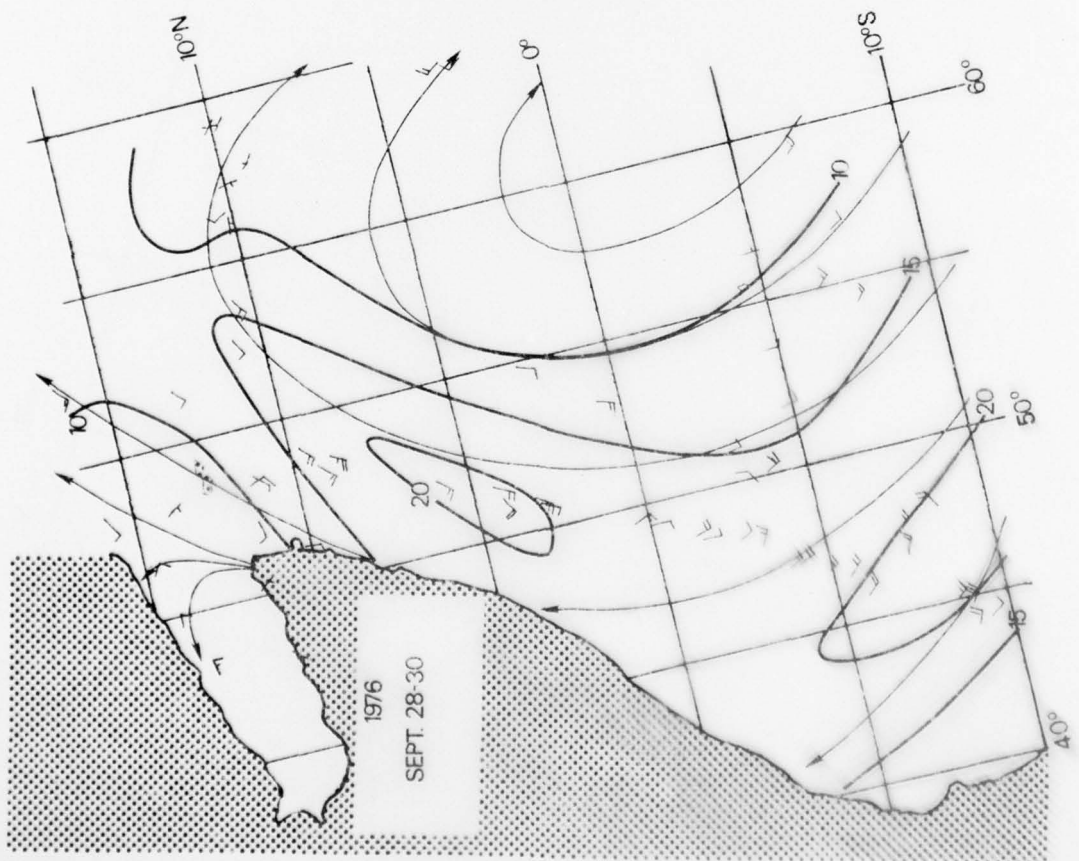
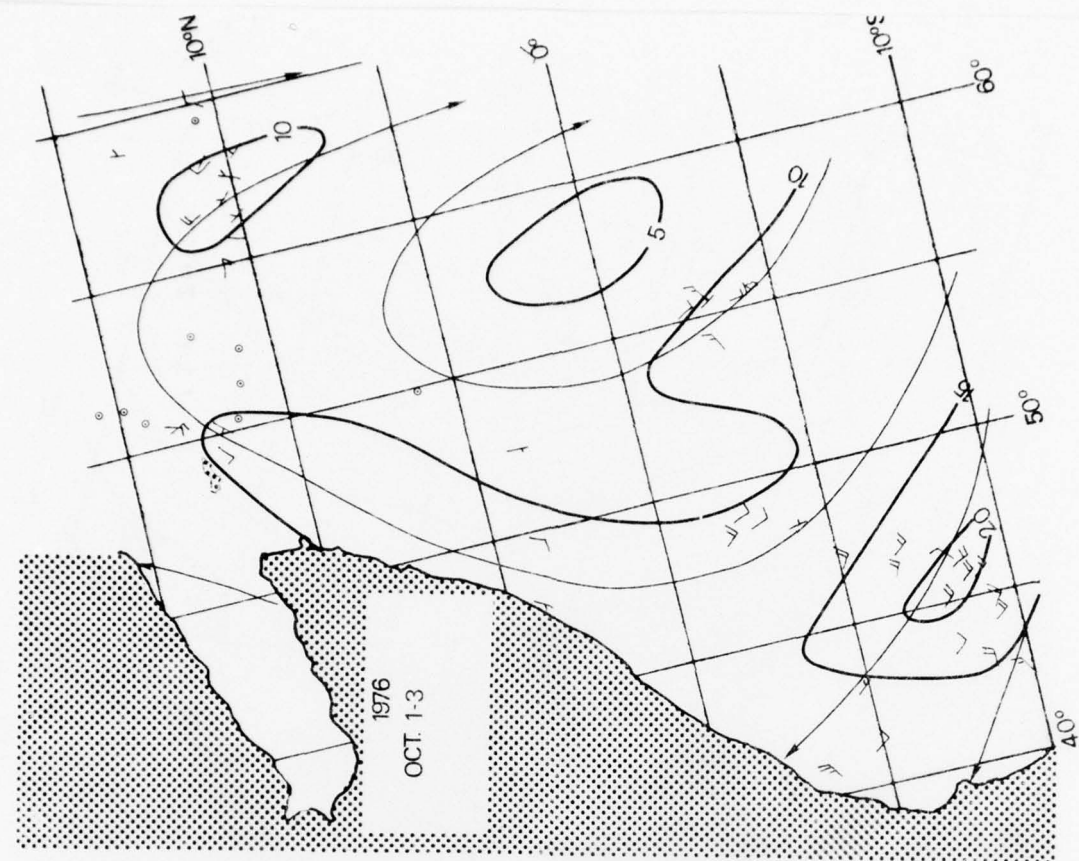




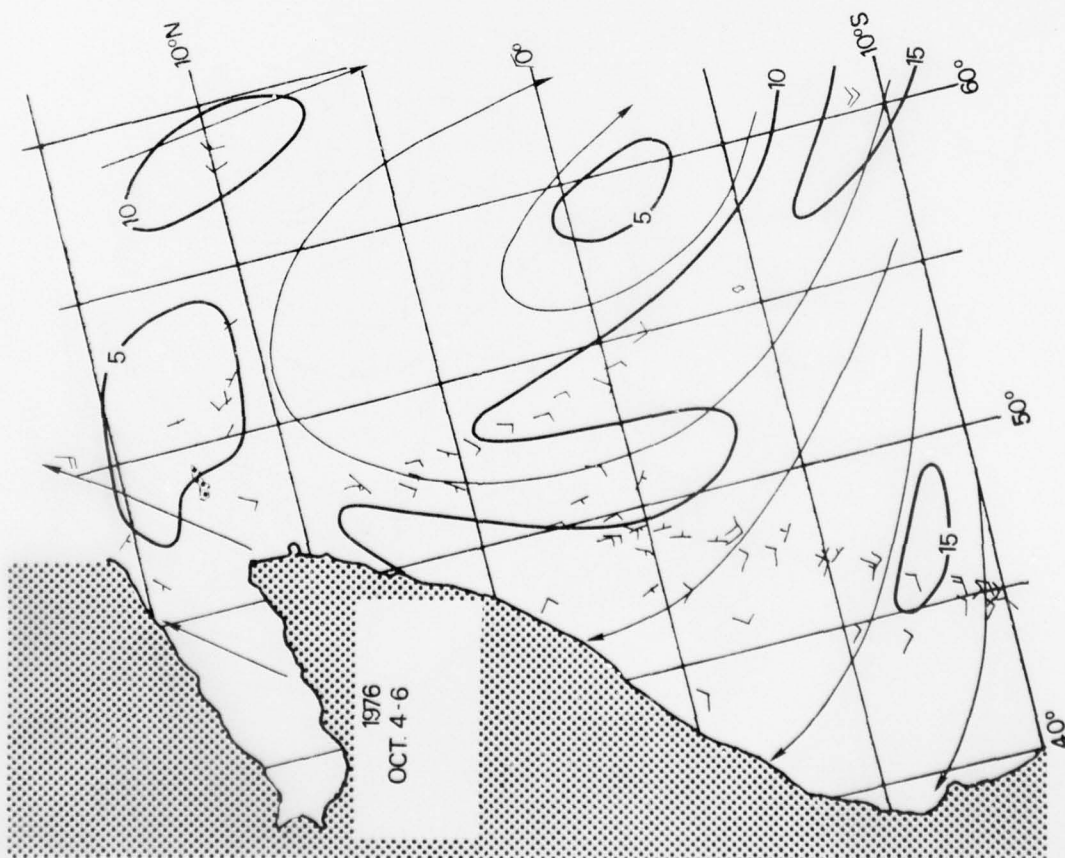
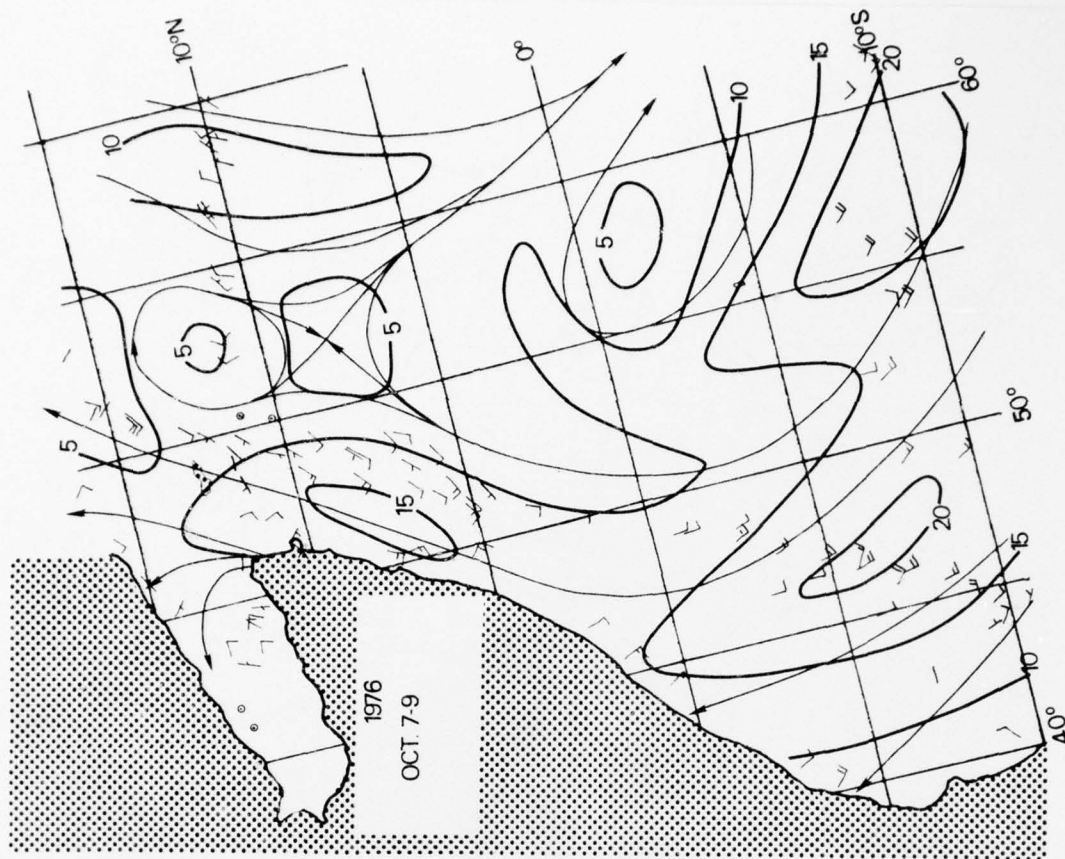


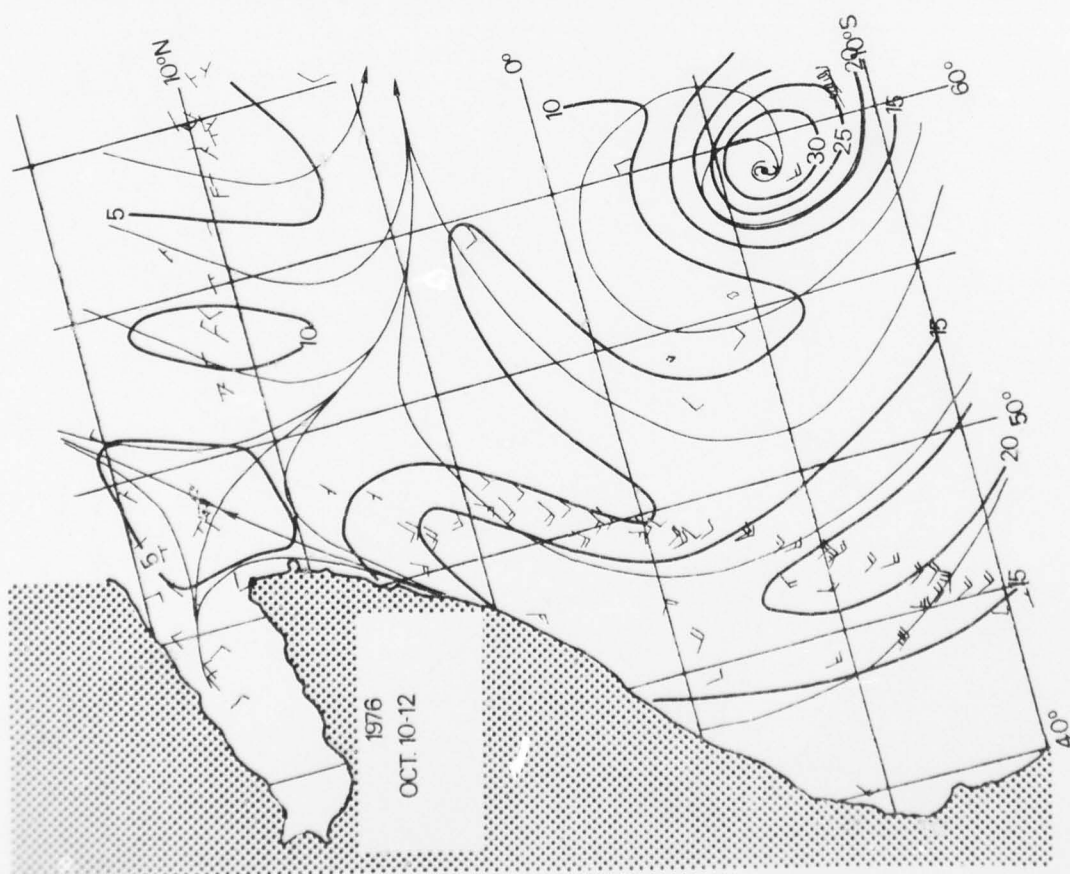
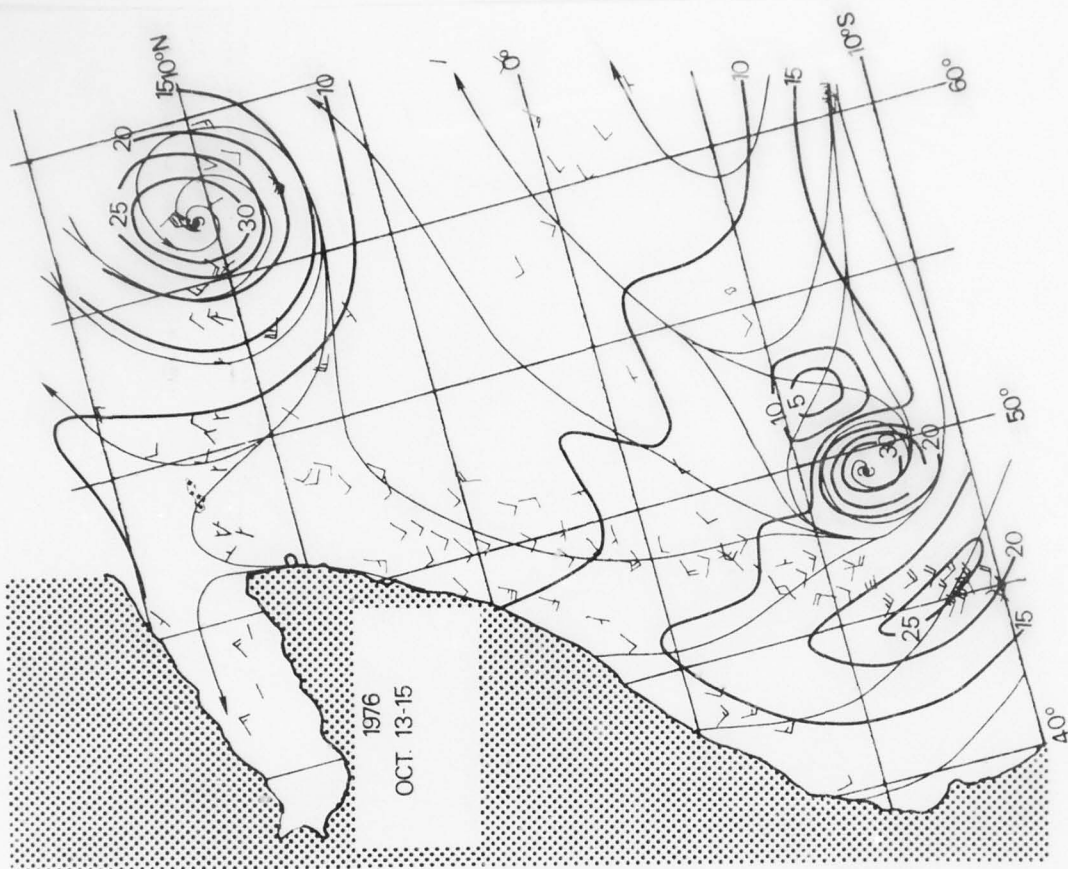


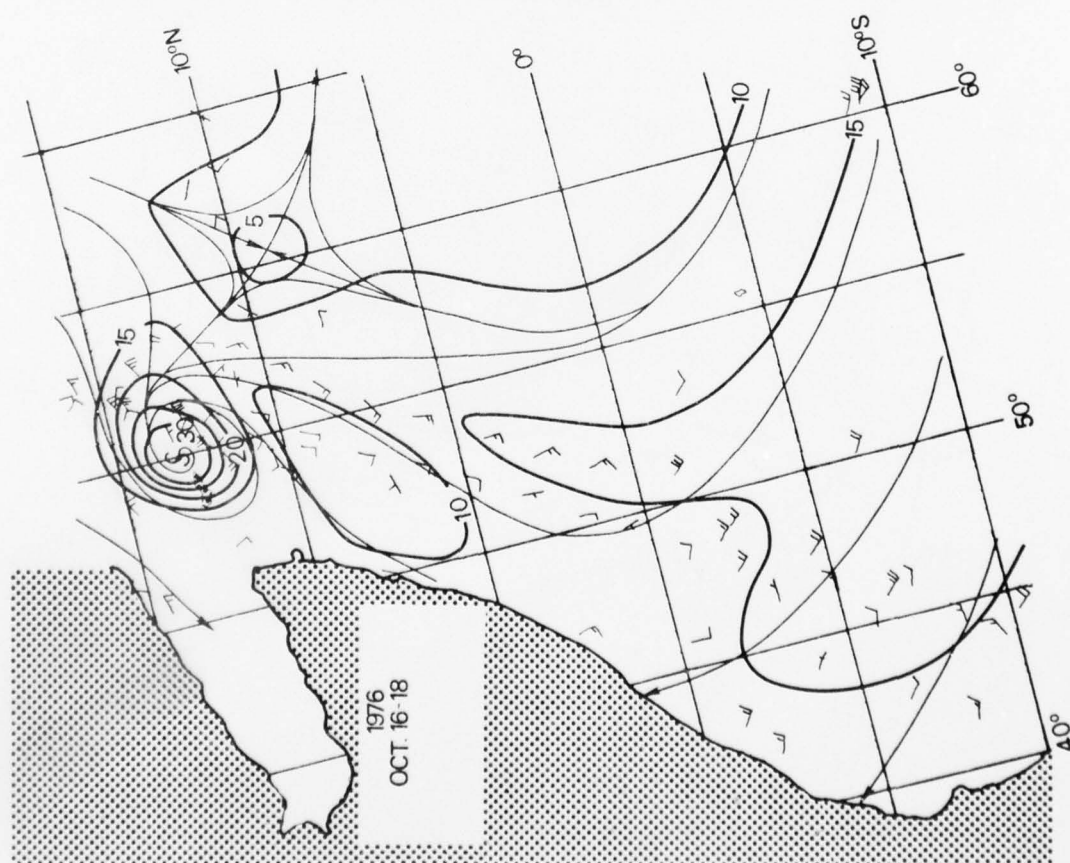
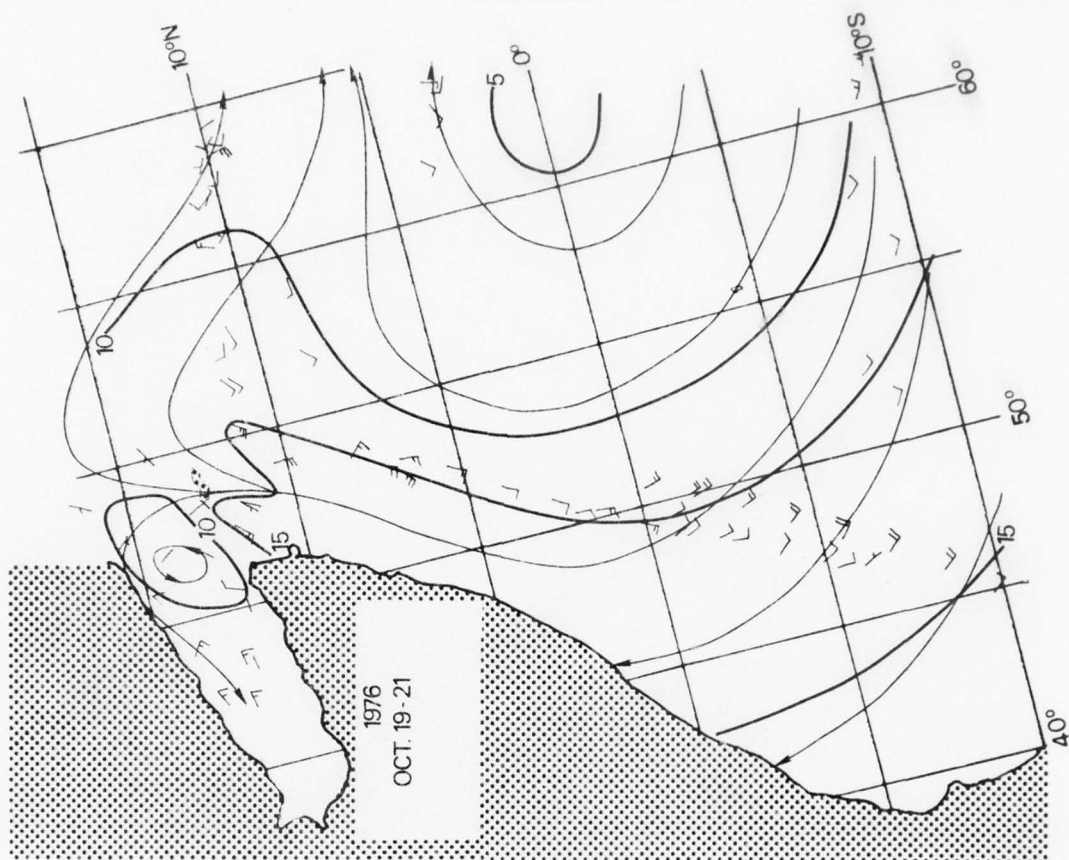


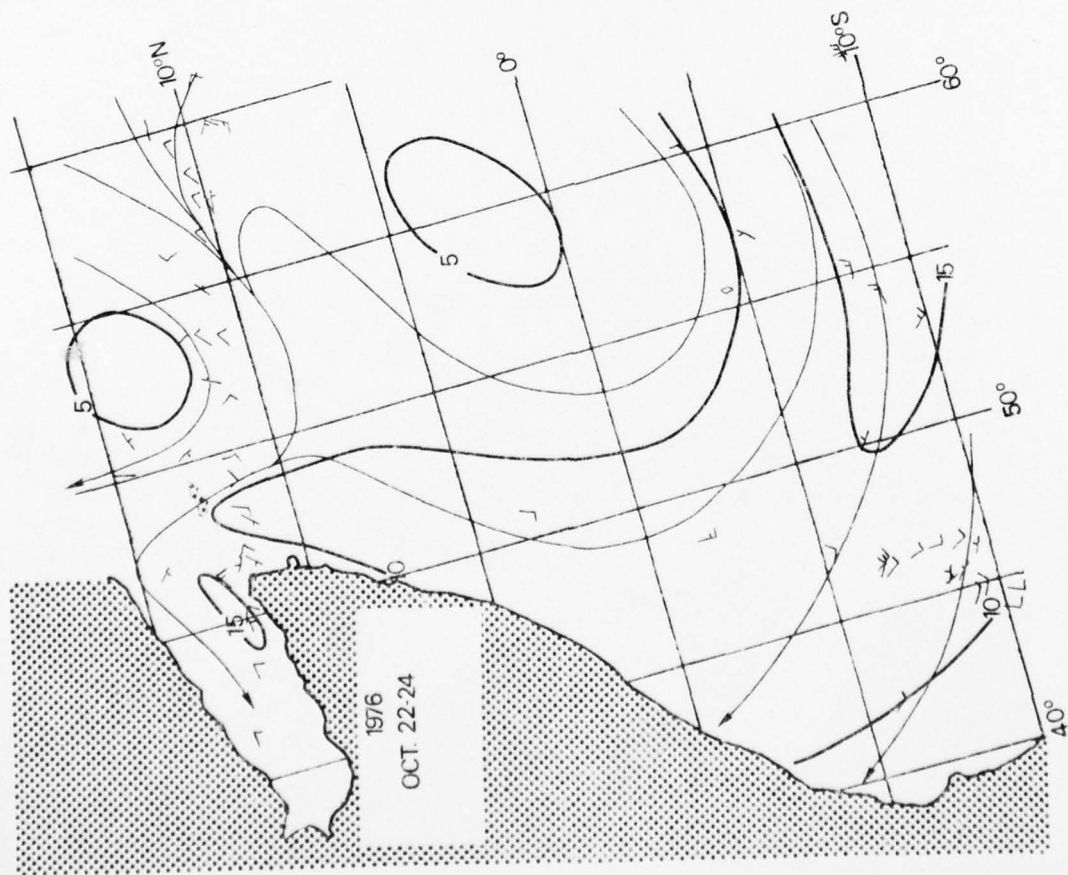
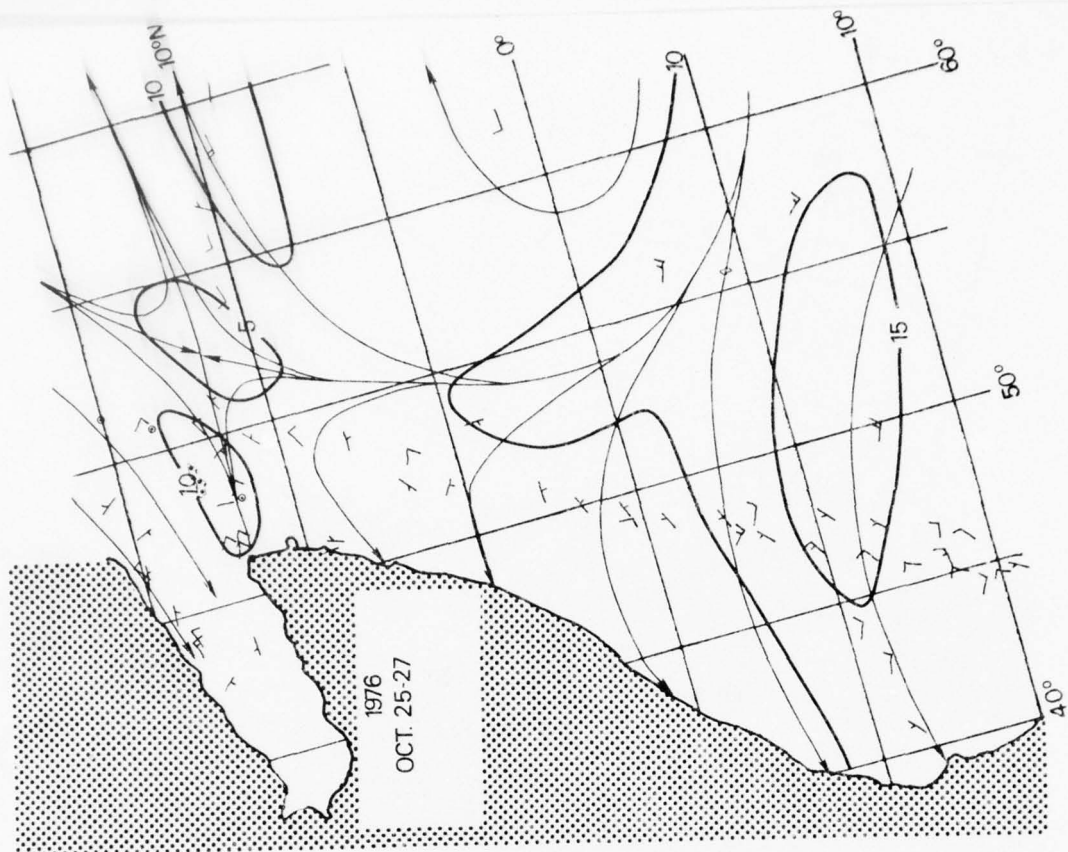




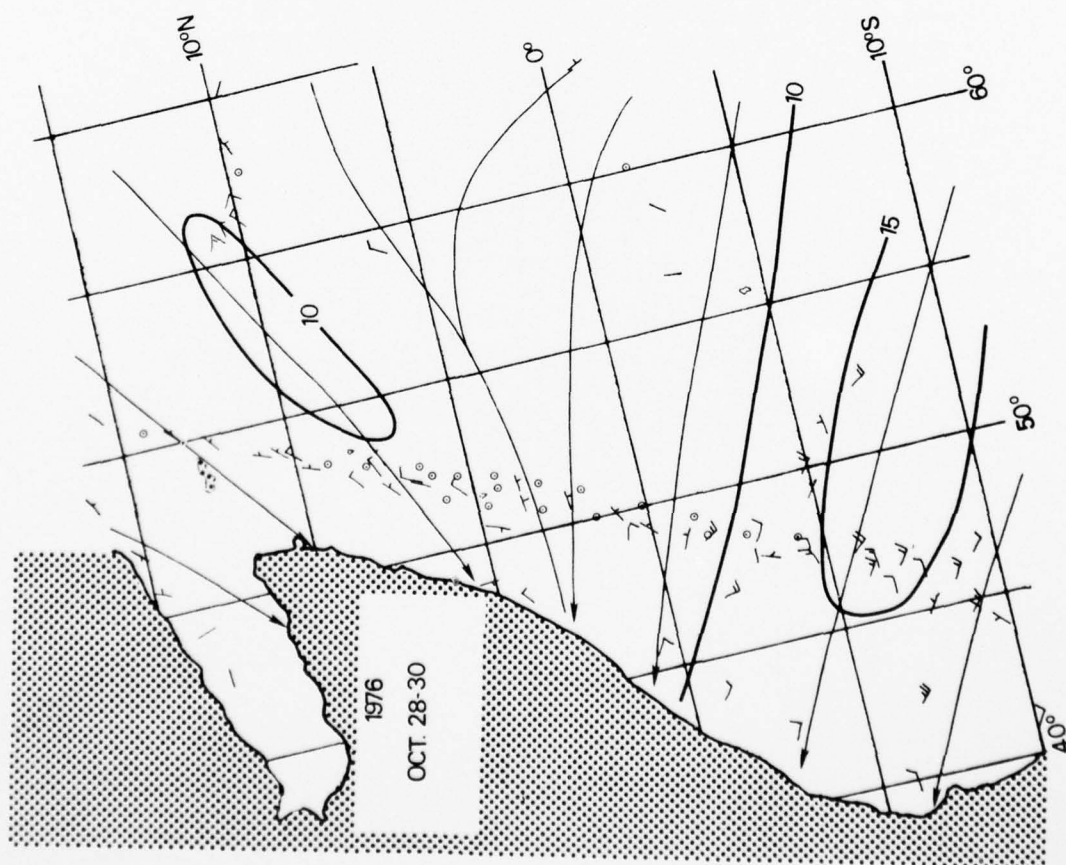












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19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Wind maps; western Indian Ocean; wind data; atmospheric jet; surface wind field; SW Monsoon		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)  During the past few years, oceanographers and meteorologists alike have re- focused their interest on the monsoon regions of the western Indian Ocean. Oceanographic pilot programs (e.g. INDEX, CINCWIO) and meteorological programs (e.g. MONEX, FGGE) are evidences of this interest.  The interaction between ocean and atmosphere is particularly pronounced in the Arabian Sea and along its boundaries. The low-level atmospheric jet over East		

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Africa and the Somali Current with its adjacent upwelling areas are prime examples of coupled air-sea phenomena. The large signals and the annual periodicity of these processes make them particularly attractive to the geophysical researchers, especially to oceanographers and meteorologists.

As part of studying the influence of atmospheric motions on oceanic motions in the western Indian Ocean, maps describing the surface wind field for that area have been prepared at the University of Miami for a period of fourteen and a half months (mid-August 1975 to October 1976). The surface wind description given by these maps is more suitable for concurrent oceanographic studies than monthly mean winds obtained from climatological atlases: year-to-year variations and high horizontal resolution, which are averaged out in the atlas information, are retained on our maps.

For meteorologists and oceanographers preparing experimental work in 1979, these maps may be of particular interest.